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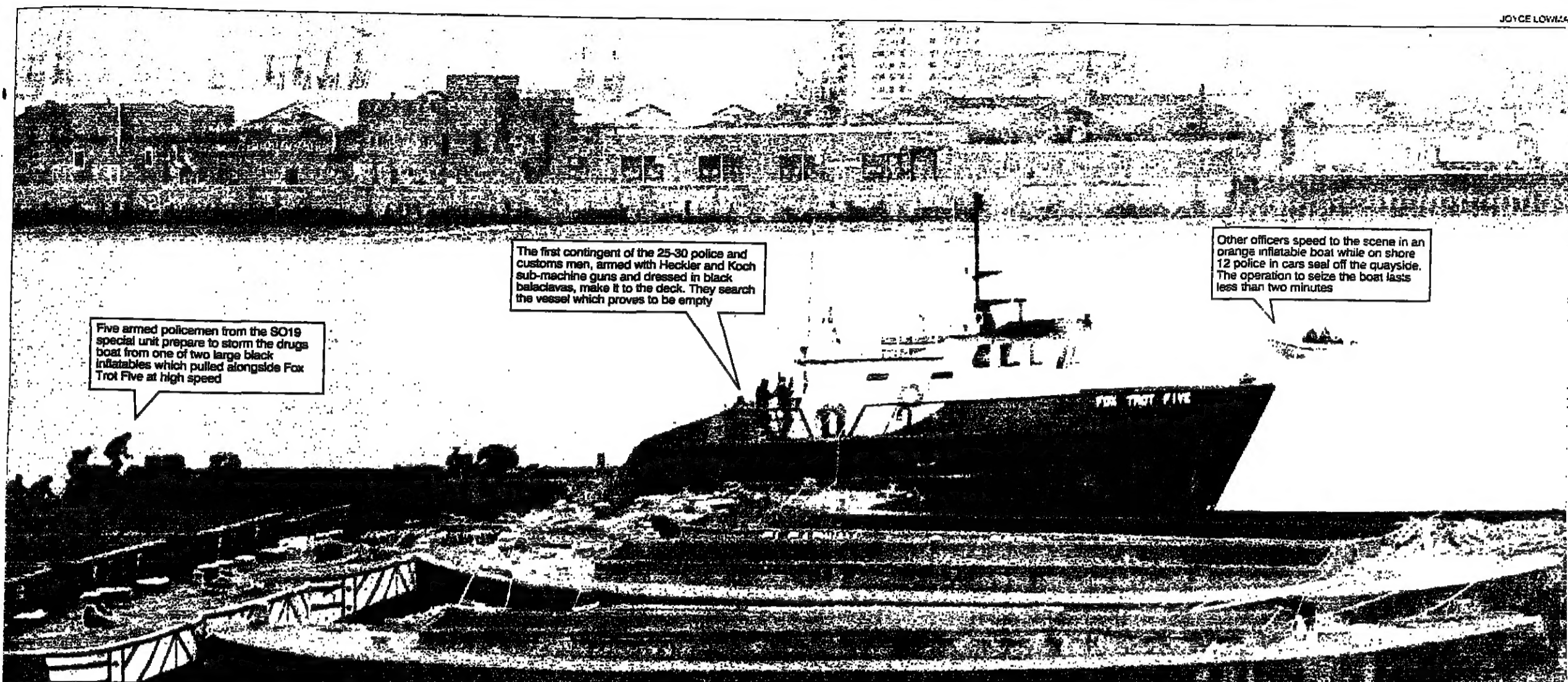


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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1992

45p

Armed and masked, police storm Thames vessel in £160m cocaine hunt



JOYCE LOWMAN

Five armed policemen from the SO19 special unit prepare to storm the drugs boat from one of two large black inflatables which pulled alongside Fox Trot Five at high speed

The first contingent of the 25-30 police and customs men, armed with Heckler and Koch sub-machine guns and dressed in black balaclavas, make it to the deck. They search the vessel which proves to be empty

Other officers speed to the scene in an orange inflatable boat while on shore 12 police in cars seal off the quayside. The operation to seize the boat lasts less than two minutes

Dawn raid on the Thames: how armed police and Customs officers, in the last stages of a carefully planned anti-drugs operation, swooped on the Panamanian-registered Fox Trot Five. They later seized a 1.1-tonne cargo of cocaine

Record haul in London drug raid

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES and Customs officers yesterday seized 1.1 tonnes of cocaine worth £160 million, the biggest drug haul ever made in Britain, after armed officers stormed an oil rig support vessel moored on the Thames a few miles downstream from Tower Bridge.

The seizure is both the biggest cocaine cargo ever found in Britain and the most valuable single cache to be uncovered. American and South American investigators have been warning for more than a year that Britain could be targeted by the Colombian drug cartels, and seizures of cocaine this year now far outstrip the 1.5 tonnes found in 1990.

Last night five Britons and a Spaniard were being questioned by Customs officers as forensic science experts worked on board the Fox Trot Five, registered in Panama, which was seized after mooring on pontoons at Hope and

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EC proposes £50bn kickstart to recovery

By TOM WALKER
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

EUROPE needs to spend some £50 billion on big capital projects if it is to drag itself out of recession and overcome unemployment and social unrest, EC finance ministers were told yesterday.

The money should go on building communications and transport networks, and the Community should start the ball rolling by contributing nearly £5 billion to a special investment fund, Herning Christophersen, the EC finance commissioner, told the meeting in Brussels.

Mr Christophersen said the money would be borrowed on international markets and he hoped that it would encourage a similar contribution from private investors. Member states could then borrow from the fund to bolster their own spending on capital projects.

The strategy for co-ordinated growth throughout the Community will now be put to EC leaders at their summit in Edinburgh next month. But the scale of Mr Christophersen's plans have taken Britain and Germany aback. Britain has indicated that it is in favour of promot-

The Edinburgh summit next month will have a massive package for beating the Europe-wide recession high on its agenda. But Britain has considerable doubts about the scale of the spending

ing growth, but Downing Street emphasised that it would not back billions of pounds of infrastructure spending and a British official in Brussels accused Mr Christophersen of coming out with "back of the envelope figures that seem a bit of a mixup". Horst Kohler of Germany told fellow finance ministers that short-term capital spending would inevitably weigh heavily on public sector borrowing requirements and push back even further the goal of a single currency.

But Mr Christophersen countered that monetary union would be impossible without economic recovery and expansion. "We must send a positive signal to the international markets from Edinburgh," he said. "The summit will be important to kickstart the European economy."

He had the full backing of

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, who said that plans for co-ordinated growth should have been formulated when the boom of the Eighties began to cool. "Even now the plans are like repairs to a



wooden leg," he said. "The limb does not come to life."

The French finance minister, Michel Sapin, also supported the plan and said Paris would be coming out with its own strategy later in the week. Massive public spending plans are regarded as potential vote-winners for in the elections due in March.

In London, officials said that the government was "not particularly enamoured" of M Delors' plans for infrastructure spending. Britain instead wanted to see a Europe-wide version of Norman Lamont's Autumn Statement — a policy of protecting capital projects while keeping within budgetary constraints and controlling public borrowing.

Even before Mr Christophersen unveiled his proposals, John Major had been concerned about M Delors' demands for a big increase in the Community budget and had wanted to keep all talk of Europe-wide spending off the Edinburgh agenda. Britain and other northern European

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Thousands in street protest over killings by neo-Nazis

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN AND ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

A DEMONSTRATION in Berlin to protest at the murder of three Turks — two women and a ten-year-old child — turned violent last night as stone-throwing left-wing youths clashed with riot police in the predominantly Turkish Kreuzberg district of the city.

Police reported that a number of officers were injured during scuffles with the demonstrators, many of whom wore balaclavas and belonged to the Turkish community which had been incensed by news of the killings.

Local leaders of the ethnic Turkish community issued pleas against the inflaming of passions.

In the more fashionable Charlottenburg district of Berlin, several thousand people marched peacefully. Thousands of Germans also took part last night in anti-racism demonstrations in Hamburg and other cities after the murders of the ethnic Turks by suspected neo-Nazis. German politicians across the political spectrum denounced the killings. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said: "This is for every law-abiding and decent person in Germany a terrible experience. In fact, I can say it is a disgrace for our country."

Ankara accused the German authorities of not acting decisively enough against rac-

ist violence. The authorities in Mölln have said that the Turkish family attacked were long-settled guest-workers, and that the girl killed was born in Germany.

The federal prosecutor, who has taken responsibility for the case from the state authorities, said that by accompanying

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Heseltine tells of 'conflicting' interests in arms-to-Iraq case

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ministers and officials had to weigh "conflicting interests in changing circumstances" in deciding how to interpret guidelines banning arms-related sales to Iraq, Michael Heseltine told MPs last night.

In what appeared to be a foretaste of the evidence to be given by the government to the Scott enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair, the president of the board of trade said that judgments had to be made about British jobs "in circumstances where other people in other nations were queuing up to fill those orders".

In a tense Commons debate, Robin Cook, the shadow

industry secretary, accused ministers of "stark naivety" in allowing the export of machine tools to equip Iraq. He said ministers had helped to arm a most brutal regime and added that it was contemptible for the government "to dump the blame" on Alan Clark, the former defence and trade and industry minister.

He said the most controversial decisions were taken after Mr Clark left the DTI in July 1989. "That is the real crime of Alan Clark to this government not that he participated in secret meetings to export arms to Saddam, not that he misled parliament, but that he let the cat out of the bag."

Mr Heseltine was repeated-

ly pressed to say whether he knew, when signing a public interest immunity certificate to deny documents to the defence in the Matrix Churchill trial, that the three accused had been acting in accordance with government policy and that one had given information to the security services.

Mr Heseltine maintained that "the document I was asked to sign did not ask me to become involved in investigating or even understanding the nature of the prosecution". The legal advice to ministers was that there was no discretion about signing the certificates.

Iraq debate, page 6

Government to fund Windsor restoration

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE government is to meet the cost of restoring Windsor Castle in the face of continuing pressure from some Labour MPs to force the Queen to contribute to a bill that is likely to come to tens of millions of pounds.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, told the Commons yesterday that resources would be provided to restore "this most precious and well-loved part of our national heritage", and that the fire-damaged section was essentially a public part of the castle and not the Queen's private apartments. The government has been responsible for the fabric of the world's largest and oldest continuous-

ly inhabited castle since 1831. A similar commitment was made by the government immediately after a serious fire damaged the state apartments at Hampton Court palace in 1986. That restoration, recently completed, cost just over £10 million, but the Windsor project is likely to be on a much greater scale.

Windsor is one of the Queen's official residences and the one she most regards as home. But it is also the nation's most-visited tourist

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VACHERON CONSTANTIN

Asprey

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مكتبات الأمل



Flaming row: a farmer burning the Union Jack at Valenciennes in northern France yesterday in protest at the deal agreed between America and the EC last week

French pull back from a veto

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

AS French farmers staged angry protests against American interests yesterday, the Mitterrand government signalled that it would try to defuse an EC crisis over agricultural trade by playing for time and seeking compensation within the Community.

While President Mitterrand continued to withhold public comment on his country's isolated opposition to the Washington agreement, his ministers mixed tough rhetoric with suggestions of ways to avert a destructive French veto.

Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister, said France might ask its community partners to adjust the Common Agricultural Policy to benefit French farmers. He hoped this could be discussed at a meeting due to take place next week between Chancellor Kohl and Mitterrand. He also called for an agriculture ministers' gathering next week and said that in the meantime it would be a sign of weakness to brandish a veto.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the industry and foreign trade minister, said last night that France now had several weeks to convince its partners of the need to take its interests into account. Any thought of a veto was "very far away for us at the moment", he said. "We must manage to solve the problem before that."

Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, said France would vote on the farm agreement only when all other elements of a new Gatt deal on world trade were assembled. This could be after French parliamentary elections in March, by which time a government led by the conservative parties is expected to be in power.

Both these approaches could dilute the anger of the country's million farmers, a group with public sympathy and a record of violent insurrection.

While officials speculated on escape routes, however, the pressure for a rapid veto increased. In half a dozen actions around the country, farmers drove their tractors to town centres and, in one case, a Coca-Cola bottling plant, and burned tyres and other American products.

A farmers' leader said outside the Coca-Cola plant at Grigny, a southern Paris suburb: "We want to show the government that this is the start of a very long series of demonstrations which, if nothing happens, will be more and more violent."

Coca-Cola, like McDonald's and other American-owned firms, are pointing out that their French franchises are locally owned and sell French or European-grown products.

In Arles, farmers dumped tons of rice and at Limoux, a dozen farmers attacked the house of Louis Mermaz, the former agriculture minister, and daubed it with insults. One farmers' union wants Mermaz to be put on trial for agreeing to reform of the Common Agricultural Policy earlier this year.

Hurd airs Maastricht doubt

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

■ Ministers have hinted for the first time that there may have to be amendments to the Maastricht bill before any agreement can be secured

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, disclosed yesterday that the bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty might need to be changed to bring in possible concessions to the Danes.

Under questioning by the Commons foreign affairs committee, Mr Hurd said that he did not foresee any change to the treaty, which has already been ratified by most European Community countries.

But, for the first time, he admitted that the bill, which starts its committee stage scrutiny in the Commons next week, might need to be amended before it receives

royal assent, to take account of Danish proposals. His surprise disclosure strengthens the case of the Euro-sceptics and the Labour leadership that the European Communities (Amendment) Bill should not go ahead until talks to help Denmark to ratify the treaty are completed.

The bill's third reading in the Commons has already been delayed until May, when the Danes might hold their second Maastricht referen-

dum, as a concession by John Major to Euro-sceptics.

Mr Hurd was optimistic that a way would be found in the next two weeks to make concessions for the Danes that are legally binding but without requiring changes to the text of the treaty. He has called a conference of EC foreign ministers, at which the Danish proposals will be top of the agenda, for December 8, four days before the Edinburgh EC summit.

At the committee hearing on the agenda for the Edinburgh summit, Mr Hurd said that ideas for allowing the Danes to ratify the treaty without amending it would be circulated in early December.

Sir John Stanley, Conservative MP for Tonbridge and Malling, said that this was the first time that ministers had mentioned possible amendments to the bill before the Commons to satisfy the Danes. Mr Hurd said: "I was trying to be very cautious and not exclude amendments to the bill."

"It does not follow that other member states would necessarily need to amend their ratifications," he said. "There was a 'reasonable chance' that the Danish problem would be solved."

When questioned about the government's timetable for ratification, he stuck to earlier commitment to see that the Bill receives royal assent this session, which is not expected to end until October or November next year. He said he believed all EC states would eventually ratify the treaty on closer European union.

"My view is that the treaty will be ratified in the course of the next year and we will find a way of meeting the Danes," he said. "If I was a betting

man, I would bet on ratification next year." Other priorities for the Edinburgh summit included the Gatt world trade negotiations, completing the single internal market, future financing, enlargement of the Community, and openness and subsidiarity.

Mr Hurd told MPs: "They are linked and, although the timetable at Edinburgh will be crowded, there is a general view in the Community that we must seek positive progress on all of them so that in 1993 in we will know pretty precisely how we will take them forward."

Mr Hurd was repeatedly challenged about interference in national states by the Commission. He appealed for objectivity about the change in attitudes in Brussels.

A total of 75 pro-European Conservative backbench MPs joined forces last night to launch the Positive Europe group to counter the tactics of Tory Euro-sceptics.

Ray Whitney, MP for Weymouth, and the group's chairman, said: "The Euro-sceptics have so far attracted disproportionate attention given that they are a small minority within the parliamentary party. We intend to correct this."

The group will urge the government to ensure that the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty receives its third reading in May, regardless of whether the Danes have held their second referendum.



Hurd: bill might need change to satisfy Danes

Heseltine presses Gatt deal

BY NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN yesterday warned France not to use its veto to block the farm subsidies deal that has cleared the way to a Gatt agreement on world trade.

Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, said that for France to invoke the Luxembourg compromise on grounds of vital national interest and to prevent a settlement covering 108 countries would be "redundant" in present circumstances.

The next step would be for EC negotiators to reach a final Gatt agreement in Geneva. The package would then go before the European Council of Ministers and be decided by qualified majority voting. Britain hoped that could be done before the end of its EC presidency at the end of the year. Later, Whitehall sources did not rule out a decision at the Edinburgh summit.

In a Commons statement on the "excellent news" of the breakthrough in the dispute between the United States and the EC, Mr Heseltine was backed by Conservative and Labour MPs as he urged Paris to resist pressure from its 1.7 million farmers and approve a deal as much in its own interests as those of the rest of the world.

"France relies, perhaps to the extent of 5 per cent, on its agricultural economy. Therefore, from the point of view of the overwhelming majority of French commercial and industrial interests, the successful outcome of the Gatt round is as much in the interests of France as it is of the rest of the world."

Robin Cook, Labour's trade spokesman, said that France would be a net beneficiary. He urged Paris to accept the "Gatt agreement in the round and not judge it by the single issue of farm subsidies."

The concession he had to make, without consulting Mr Hurd, about delaying the Commons third reading until at least May and a second Danish referendum has compounded the impression of weakness created by sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. Mr Hurd was yesterday noticeably uneasy about the delay.

The recent French and German criticisms of the British presidency primarily reflect local political pressures. But Mr Major has lost the initiative and he and Mr Hurd will have to be remarkably persuasive, and have some overdue luck, if the Edinburgh summit is to be more than a face-saving exercise which at best avoids open splits and keeps Maastricht alive.

PETER RIDDELL



Trumpets sound to herald a burning issue

As MPs do not know much, have no sense of priorities and a limited attention span, the chances of an issue reaching their notice which they understand, which is important and which interests them, all at once, are statistically negligible.

First, yesterday, came a statement about Gatt: it was important, they didn't understand it and they weren't interested.

Last came the debate about Iraqi arms purchases: who knew what, when? It didn't matter, they didn't understand it but they were interested — intensely.

But the second issue scored best. The Royal Fire. It wasn't important but they did understand it and they were interested. Oh, boy, were they interested!

Riveted, in fact, Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S) arrived early and sat, motionless, arms akimbo, awaiting the statement with an expression of such profound personal concern that you might have thought it was his own kitchenette which had gone up in smoke.

It is unknown for any matter relating to ancient buildings, customs, castles, canals or the residences of titled persons, to come before the House without the arrival within seconds of Mr Cormack, puffing slightly and holding tightly to an expert opinion.

Such is his dedication to our national heritage that he might happily see all the unlisted parts of his Midlands constituency razed to the ground, if by his sacrifice he could save just one of Her Majesty's bedroom curtains.

He sat, now, generous features frozen in grief, waiting to speak.

The heritage minister spoke first. "We blame Fergie," shouted an anonymous Labour backbencher, as Peter Brooke rose to tell us what we already knew about the fire. He added that, whatever it cost, the government would pay for it. This is such an unusual statement from a Tory minister that Labour's Derek

Whitney (Hants) seized the moment and leapt to ask whether in that case the government would also rescue the Friday Colliery Athletic Club and the Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

"People should not, or become excited," said Brooke.

Brooke's shadow, Ann Clwyd, seized the moment in her own way. This was one of her first major appearances as heritage spokes-

man and she was determined to impress. She had spent the entire weekend sweating up her response, which seemed to go on for hours. Would there be a public enquiry? Had Sir John Gaddick's report been acted on? What were the fire drills? Could she have a copy, with dates?

Had BS 5839, Code of practice on installation and servicing, been observed? Would a damage have been limited if the fire had been put out at the beginning (we who knew what, when? It didn't matter, they didn't understand it but they were interested — intensely).

Couldn't the Crown Suppliers have given advice on anti-inflammation materials if they had not been abolished? Why were 12 part-time firemen in Windsor abolished five years ago?

A sort of 'Matri-Windsor-style' scandal began to take shape. We began to wonder whether there was a Mr Clwyd, and what would happen if he burned the toast at breakfast. Would Ann jump onto the table with a list of Questions Which Must Be Answered? When was the toaster last adjusted? What arrangements had been made to check whether the toast was done? What if the curtains had caught fire?

In a reply, the amiable Mr Brooke bumbled away in conciliatory style — much, indeed, as though he had just burnt the toast — and was supported by an intervention from Windsor's Tory MP, Michael Trench, who raised his question with a reference to "the good townspeople of Windsor". At this point we expected huggles to step forward and boggle.

But something better stepped forward. Mr Cormack. He had been deeply distressed, Madam Speaker, by this "tragedy and disaster for the nation as a whole" and almost as deeply distressed by the "mean-spirited comments" of certain MPs, who thought the Queen should pay.

Mr Cormack sat down, his hot-spots smouldering. As MPs discussed structural damage at Windsor, the whole frame seemed to quiver. Such was his condition, we thought, that should so much as a Cormack cufflink catch fire, and should (heaven forbid) his colleagues permit a moment's delay in calling the fire brigade, the blaze would quickly spread along the extensive Cormack facade to an entire wing of the ornate structure.

Castle Cormack would still be blazing at dawn.

Irish poll gloom for big parties

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish election campaign reached its conclusion last night with a television debate between the leaders of the two biggest parties in the republic, both of whom are struggling for political survival.

For Albert Reynolds, the prime minister and leader of Fianna Fáil, the debate was seen as a last chance to regain ground lost in the first two weeks, which has put majority government all but beyond his reach in tomorrow's poll.

Mr Reynolds has fought a poor campaign and looks like being blamed by many voters who believe he caused an election that could have been avoided for at least a year. His future as Fianna Fáil leader will be in doubt if it is forced into another coalition.

His debating opponent last night may face an equally bleak future. John Bruton, leader of Fine Gael, has been an ineffective leader and has seen his personal rating slump from a high of 42 per cent in April last year, six months after he took on the job, to 31 per cent this week.

Fine Gael's fortunes are at a low ebb, indicating that there is no prospect of the party breaking through on its own. It is attracting just 25 per cent support, down from 27 per cent in the 1989 general election and 39 per cent in the 1982 election that led to a coalition government with Labour. With Fine Gael likely to win 50 seats, it should nevertheless have an important role in any new coalition, excluding Fianna Fáil.

EC wants £50bn kickstart

Continued from page 1
States are opposed to the M Delors budget plan, which would mean extra cash for Mediterranean countries such as Spain and Portugal; and sources in London, yesterday said that a gulf had opened between the two sides that would be difficult to reconcile in time for the summit.

But now, after strong criticism from the rest of the Community of the British presidency, Mr Major has accepted that economic development should be fully discussed in Edinburgh. Nevertheless, officials said that the economy was not Mr Major's top priority in his series of talks with other leaders in the run-up to the gathering. The priorities remained enlargement, subsidiarity, the single market and future financing.

Senior ministers conceded yesterday that the prime minister faces a daunting task in seeking to crown his presidency with any tangible achievements at Edinburgh. They were worried about the onsets and identified disputes over Danish ratification of the Maastricht treaty and Community financing as the main stumbling blocks.

They were also concerned that French hostility to the Gatt deal on farm production and renewed turmoil inside the ERM could wreck the summit. In a candid assessment of the pitfalls awaiting the prime minister, one source said it could turn out either as "Europe saves the world" or "Europe falls apart".

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The trials and tribulations of a rational man

DOUGLAS Hurd is the epitome of the rational man confronting an irrational world — the man of office and sensible. But achieving each has now become harder.

The foreign secretary never refers to crises or admits that talks might have broken down. These words are not in his vocabulary. He prefers to avoid any hint of open conflict. Every obstacle must be surmounted or circumvented in a roundabout way. For him, strong words are best used in private, not in public. The most he will concede is that somebody or some situation is tiresome. He described the bitter public row three weeks ago when Ray MacSharry, the EC negotiator, resigned temporarily from the talks, as "a flurry".

He did not want to consider the possibility that France might try to block Friday's farm deal with America. Any question of a veto did not arise at this stage: a final Gatt deal was still some weeks away, he said.

Stripped of Mr Hurd's unsolving difficulties over future financing, ratifying Maastricht, plus putting substance into subsidiarity — were all sensible. But achieving each has now become harder.

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RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Understandable euphemisms, agreement at Edinburgh is still a long way away. Clever lawyers are trying to find ways of meeting the concerns of the Danes in a legally binding way without changing the treaty. The effort was, Mr Hurd said, "condemned to succeed".

The Commission has produced ideas on subsidiarity to limit interference in national affairs, but these are not yet specific. In particular, a big gap remains over the future financing of the Community between northern European contributors and the mainly Mediterranean recipients. This links directly with the timing of the Community's enlargement.

Yesterday's British initiative on the EC recession — described in Whitehall with no hint of irony as a European version of the recent Autumn Statement — represents a marked change of approach.

It was primarily intended to head off calls for large-scale growth packages of the type suggested by Jacques Delors, president of the Commission. There will be no extra money from the EC budget, but rather expanded lending by the European Investment Bank.

The prospects for Europe are at present bleak. The exchange-rate mechanism is being pulled in every direction: economies are diverging rather than converging as recession deepens the EC has stepped up sanctions against Serbia and expanded humanitarian aid to parts of the former Yugoslavia but has been unable to stop the killing; racial tensions and violence have increased sharply in many countries in face of a wave of new migrants and refugees; and economic difficulties have grown in central and eastern Europe.

No wonder that many Americans see a divided, inward looking and short-sighted Europe unable to face up to the post-Cold war world on its own. The British government cannot be blamed for all these difficulties. But Mr Major has suffered from his inability to see off his internal party critics over Maastricht.

The concession he had to make, without consulting Mr Hurd, about delaying the Commons third reading until at least May and a second Danish referendum has compounded the impression of weakness created by sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. Mr Hurd was yesterday noticeably uneasy about the delay.

The recent French and German criticisms of the British presidency primarily reflect local political pressures. But Mr Major has lost the initiative and he and Mr Hurd will have to be remarkably persuasive, and have some overdue luck, if the Edinburgh summit is to be more than a face-saving exercise which at best avoids open splits and keeps Maastricht alive.

PETER RIDDELL

Mob teams up with Colombian cartels

Mafia poised to flood European cities with cocaine, say police

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

AMERICAN and European anti-drug officials believe the Italian Mafia is shifting its drug operations from the heroin trade to cocaine smuggling routes between South America and Europe.

Investigators say the Mafia has forged an alliance with the Colombian cocaine cartels to supply an expanding European market, in return for assisting the Colombians to break into the New York heroin market and to help them launder drug profits. At the same time, the Mafia has reduced its own share of the US heroin market.

American anti-drug agents, who have spent years countering the spread of cocaine on their streets, say that Europe is in for a shock. They fear that seizures like that on the Thames yesterday could become far more common.

"I don't see how Europe is going to survive the Mafia-driven onslaught of cocaine," said Daniel Kingston, a special agent with the Miami FBI.

American officials say the US has been flooded with record amounts of cocaine. Seizures of cocaine in the southeast of the country so far this year total 124,591lb, almost double the figure for 1991. The US is saturated with cocaine. You are going to see a vast amount being diverted to Europe," said Mr Kingston.

Plans for European economic unity mean that border controls will be removed between EC member states from next year. Experts say the Mafia is poised to exploit the opportunity to smuggle cocaine freely across Europe. "They are just sitting over there thinking about how much money they are going to make," said a foreign drug officer.

Recent investigations have revealed Mafia-linked cocaine smuggling networks operating between Colombia and Europe, often via Venezuela and the Caribbean. Most shipments arrive at Spanish ports, although some have been sent directly to Italy. Other cocaine shipments, not tied to the Mafia, have also landed in the UK.

Over the years, the Mafia has mastered the use of busi-

ness fronts in traditional Sicilian exports to launder drug profits. But experts say the Mafia is diversifying abroad, buying into casino and resort operations all over the Caribbean and in Spain. "Finally we are opening our eyes and we are able to see something that has existed for years," said



Galatolo: arrest linked Mafia and Colombia

a European anti-drugs officer who closely monitors Mafia activities.

The FBI has reported evidence of the Mafia exchanging Asian heroin for Colombian cocaine. The swap "takes advantage of the large price differential between Europe and America," said a 1992 FBI report on *Italian Organised Crime*. Cocaine sells in Europe for about 15 times its value in Colombia and more than three times Miami prices.

The Mafia's involvement in cocaine dates back to the 1970s when the Cuntrera

family from Sicily moved to Venezuela, where police say they bought their way into elite society and built a multi-million dollar empire laundering heroin proceeds for Italian Mafia groups back home.

Experts estimate that 75 per cent of all Colombian cocaine is exported through neighbouring Venezuela. US drug intelligence analysts say the Cuntrera family handles most of the cocaine now passing through the country. The family smuggled heroin into the UK until 1985, when the ring was broken by police in a sting operation that caught Francesco Di Carlo, the one-time Mafia boss in Britain.

Requests for their extradition were made in the US and Italy, where charges were brought against the Cuntreras by Giovanni Falcone, the crusading anti-Mafia judge who was blown up with his wife and bodyguards in May.

The Venezuelan government, after ignoring the requests for years, suddenly deported Pasquale, Paolo and Gaspare Cuntrera to Italy in September.

The first hard evidence of direct contact between the Sicilian Mafia and the Colombian cartels came in 1989 when FBI agents persuaded Mafia drug dealer Joseph Cuffaro to turn informant. Cuffaro confessed to having arranged a 1,300lb shipment of cocaine from Colombia to Sicily with John Galatolo, another Miami Mafia member who was arrested and sentenced to 45 years in jail in 1990.

"We think they made more than one shipment," said a drug officer involved in the Galatolo investigation. "We believe they were planning to turn Spain into a warehouse for distributing cocaine across Europe."

In January, seven Mafia figures involved with Galatolo will face trial in New York, including Joseph and Joe Gambino, who were arrested in Fort Lauderdale, near Miami, in September.

Windsor fire cause may stay a mystery

By BILL FROST

FIRE chiefs yesterday said that the cause of last Friday's blaze at Windsor Castle may never be established.

David Harper, Berkshire's deputy fire and emergency planning officer, who was in charge of the operation, said: "It could be 48 hours or more before we know how the fire at Windsor Castle started. It is also possible the cause may never be pinpointed."

He dismissed as speculation suggestions that the fire had been started after inflammable liquid used to restore pictures in the Queen's private gallery had been ignited by a halogen lamp. Some newspaper reports yesterday said that white spirit was accidentally spilled onto a 250-watt bulb in the lamp, which had been brought in because the electricity had been cut off during rewiring. The liquid was said to have burst into flames that quickly spread to tapestries and curtains, then crossed along the ceiling to St George's Hall.

Mr Harper said: "These suggestions are pure speculation. But we cannot rule out any cause yet. However, a great deal of work is still to be done before we can say anything authoritative."

Asked to comment on the efficiency of the castle's own fire brigade, which has recently lost two tenders, Mr Harper said: "We are satisfied they gained entry to the affected area and started tackling the blaze. They were first on the scene and they did remarkably well."

Mr Harper said in his report to the heritage secretary that his men had responded to the emergency call from the castle on Friday morning within eight minutes. "An assessment had been made by the attending Berkshire fire-fighters and a request for further assistance was made by the officer-in-charge."

He went on: "The rapidity of the fire spread was being assisted by the complicated, combustible nature of the building, its contents and also by the large, high-level ceiling void above St George's Hall."



Back at work: Viola Pemberton-Pigott, an art conservator reported to have been using white spirit

Brooke promises funds for castle

Continued from page 1
attraction outside London, with more than three million visitors a year passing through its gates to view, among its other attractions, the substantial part of the Royal Collection of paintings and works of art that was exhibited in the state apartments there until last week.

Buckingham Palace has already made it clear that restoration and repair of the contents of the fire-damaged apartments, being part of the Royal Collection, are already the responsibility of the Queen, who funds the care of the world's leading assemblage of art in private hands from her own resources and from entrance money at Windsor and the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace. She is expected to continue the arrangement and fund the cleaning of those works damaged in the blaze. But

such assurances have been insufficient for some backbench MPs, who continued to call yesterday for the Queen to pay a proportion of the cost of restoring the building, a project which some estimates have put at £60 million, but which Mr Brooke indicated yesterday could not at this stage have a figure of ultimate cost attached to it.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said during a heated Commons exchange yesterday that 90 per cent of the British public were against paying for the Windsor fire. He told William Waldegrave, MP, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, that the Queen should be made to pay. Mr Waldegrave retorted: "The level of your thoughts are about the same as the level of your actual language. The hearts of people in this country have

gone out to the Queen over this tragedy." Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, told the House that Labour shared the "profound sense of loss" at the destruction of part of England's heritage, but regretted the failure of Mr Brooke to set up an enquiry into the cause of the fire and the lessons to be learnt. There was legitimate public concern that the total cost of repair should not be paid exclusively by the taxpayer, she said.

Labour demands for the Queen to pay a share of the reconstruction costs came shortly before the release of an opinion poll last night suggesting that the royal family do not give value for money. In a Harris poll for ITN's *News At Ten*, only one in five of the 1,077 questioned thought the monarchy and the royal family represented good value for money. Some 76 per cent said ways should

be found of cutting costs, and 61 per cent thought public financing should be extended only to the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Prince of Wales.

Royal Berkshire fire brigade and palace officials yesterday dismissed as pure speculation reports in some newspapers that the fire had been started by Viola Pemberton-Pigott, an art conservator employed by the Royal Collection who had been working near the fire's assumed starting point in the private chapel. Fire officials said they had not yet reached a conclusion on the cause.

Miss Pemberton-Pigott, who has worked for the collection since 1981, was at work at Windsor yesterday but declined to comment.

Janet Daley, page 16
Lyane Truss, page 16
Letters, page 17

£160m haul in Thames raid

Continued from page 1
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with the London arrests. Yesterday, Det Chief Supt Derek Todd, deputy commander of the Number 9 regional crime squad which launched the operation, said the cocaine seizure was the result of a six-month investigation which is part of a longer enquiry code-named *Emergence*. That is aimed at drug gangs in the south London criminal world and has already led to cannabis seizures.

Earlier this year, customs officers seized more than 900 kilograms of cocaine after it was landed in Britain.

Yesterday's operation began a month ago when the regional crime squad linked with customs investigators after gaining intelligence on the

Fox Trot Five. Mr Todd said that *Fox Trot Five* took on the drug cargo at sea off the island of Aruba near Venezuela. Monitored by military aircraft, it was picked up approaching the Channel by long-range customs cutters using radar and special optical devices. Police and customs officers waited yesterday as the ship, moored, the cargo of black plastic bags was unloaded and the crew came ashore. At 8.52am, police raided the warehouse in Surrey Canal Road.

Two inflatable craft loaded with armed police from the Yard's specialist firearms unit and customs officers approached and boarded *Fox Trot Five* on the Thames.

Tube strike called off after talks

By IAN MURRAY

TODAY'S all-out strike on London Underground was called off yesterday by the Rail, Maritime and Transport union after 25 hours of talks at the conciliation service Acas.

RMT, the biggest Underground union, had ordered an indefinite strike of its 11,000 members over plans to cut more than 5,000 jobs. Management had been preparing to run trains even if it proved impossible to collect fares.

With both sides claiming victory, the dispute over restructuring the service continues, and Jimmy Knapp, RMT's general secretary, said that there was every chance of unrest next year. The union executive was told that managers now accepted RMT's right to negotiate for members.



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MADE IN MEDDLESLEY ROAD, CONSETT

Rescue teams fear fishermen are dead

By ROBIN YOUNG

RESCUE services seeking two missing fishermen reduced their search last night after finding the wreckage of their boat 15 miles from their home port.

Rescuers said there was little hope for the two men who set out on Sunday night from Padstow, Cornwall, in a 14ft open dinghy for a night-time fishing trip to Doom Bar across the Camel estuary. The alarm was raised early on Monday morning, when they did not return.

Their dinker-built wooden boat was powered by an outboard and is not thought to have carried flares or life-

jackets. The two men have not yet been named.

Earlier yesterday the Padstow lifeboat crew, which had been searching with the assistance of two helicopter crews, from RN Culdrose in Cornwall and RAF Chivenor in Devon, recovered wreckage from their boat floating four miles off Tintagel, 15 miles along the coast. Force eight gales gave gusts up to 50mph in the area yesterday. There was a force six southwesterly on Sunday night.

Cliff rescue teams were last night continuing to search the shoreline. A further hunt for bodies will be resumed at low tide today.

The National Rivers Authority, which controls netting within estuaries, said yesterday that the two missing men were not thought to have been licensed and should therefore have had to cross the bar and go to sea to fish.

John Hinchliffe, the harbour-master at Padstow, said: "They are experienced local fishermen who know the estuary well."

Cannabis case PC found not guilty

By A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICEMAN accused of planting cannabis on a black lay preacher who later won damages of £100,000 was acquitted yesterday of conspiring to pervert the course of justice. An Old Bailey judge ruled that PC David Judd could no longer receive a fair trial.

Judge Tyrer said his decision was made partly because of an article in *The Times* by Bernard Levin, which was prejudicial, and also because of the delay in bringing the case to court.

Rupert Taylor, 32, the alleged victim and a non-smoking, teetotal churchgoer, said after the case yesterday that he was "disgusted with British justice".

He claimed that PC Judd racially abused him and planted cannabis on him after he was stopped in his car in Notting Hill, west London, in 1984. In 1986, he was found not guilty at Knightsbridge Crown Court of possessing cannabis and in 1989 a High Court jury awarded him damages.

The 33-year-old officer, from Notting Hill police station, was charged and stood trial at the Old Bailey in September this year. The jury failed to reach a decision and a retrial was ordered.

Yesterday, Judge Tyrer said the case had "simply stagnated through the court process" and chances of a fair new trial were prejudiced because of the *Times* article by Bernard Levin on October 22, which said: "Shouldn't crooked policemen be sent on some sort of course with such a title as 'How to Pick the Right Victim'?"

The judge said: "I am satisfied that the article, just a calendar month before this trial, is a matter which I can't in fairness ignore."

The prosecution then offered no evidence and PC Judd, of Ruistip, west London, was formally found not guilty. After the case, Chief Supt Ken Dicox of Thames Valley police, who investigated the complaint against PC Judd, confirmed it was unlikely that the officer would face disciplinary action.



مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Deadly danger of my little phoney

By KATE ALDERSON

PARENTS who are tempted by the deepening recession to buy cheap imitations of well known toys for Christmas were warned yesterday that some fakes could be potentially dangerous. A number of toys were displayed by the Association of London Authorities to demonstrate the dangers and to alert consumers to recommended safety markings.

Conor McAuley, the association's environment spokesman, said: "Parents need to be extra careful buying toys for the Christmas stocking. The temptation in a recession is to buy cheap imitations of popular toys, but these could cost more in the long term if children are hurt by them."

"Reputable toys are improving in quality and reputable traders recognise the importance of safety," he added. "But there still remain the fly-by-night merchants who have little regard for quality or safety. They should be avoided for toy purchases."

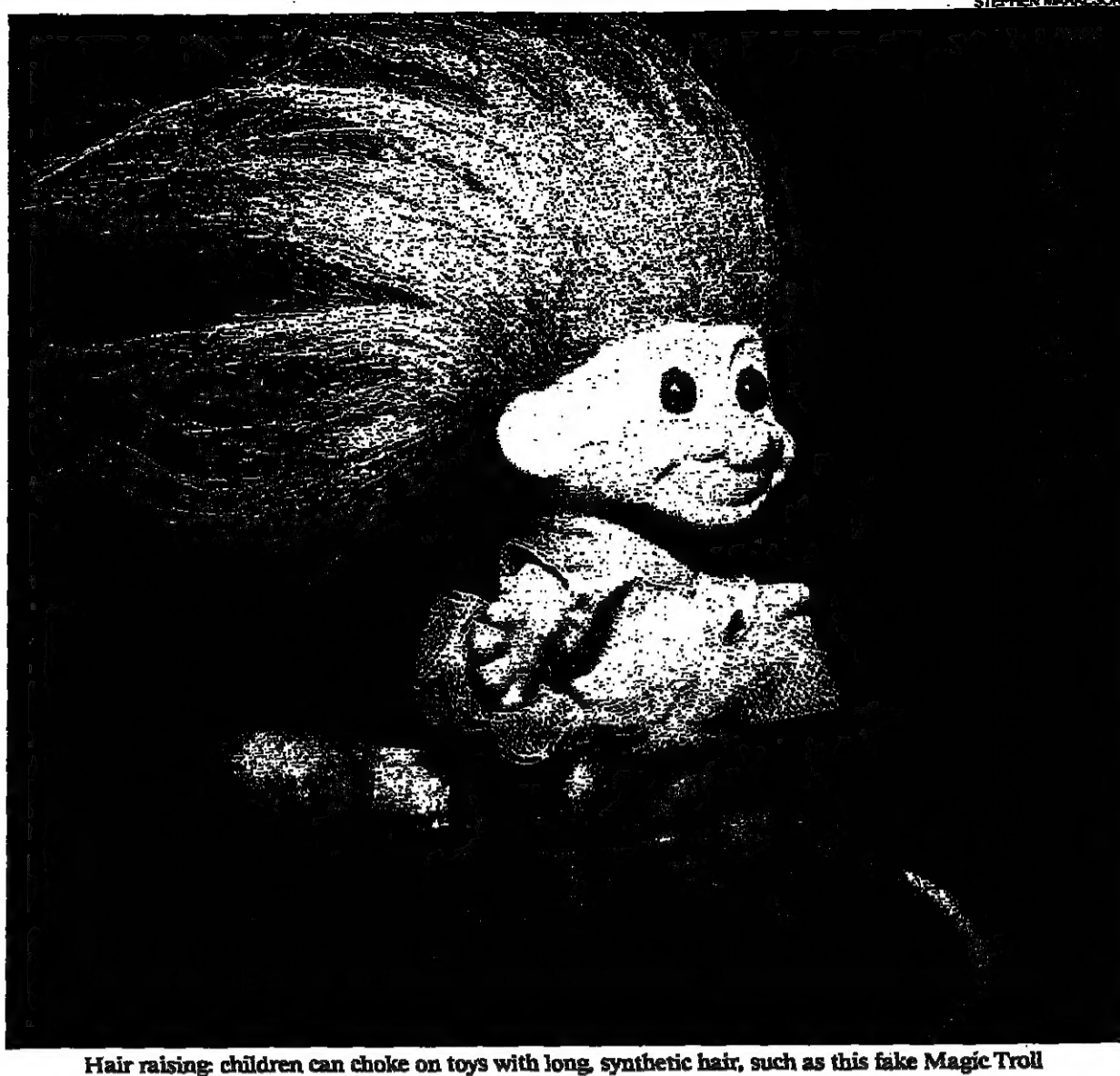
Parents were told to buy toys from reputable traders and avoid buying toys such as a baton-like "groan stick" which makes a noise when

waved. The quality version had safety markings, but the cheap imitation had loose parts that could fly off and take out a child's eye or choke an infant.

Other types of dangerous toys displayed included an egg with contents that could choke a child, a furry rabbit with loose eyes, a one-inch "gremlin" which expands on contact with water, and counterfeit My Little Pony or Magic Troll dolls with long synthetic hair.

Chris Armstrong, the association's standards adviser, said: "Expanding toys can be easily swallowed and then expand in the stomach causing a major blockage. They are very dangerous and not suitable for children of any age. A few years ago a child died after choking on a hairball caused by inhaling the long hair of a My Little Pony fake."

Key safety markings include BS 5665/EN 71, the CE mark and the Lion mark. If there is doubt about a particular toy, it can be reported to a local trading standards officer and if the goods do not comply with standards the sellers, distributors and manufacturers can be prosecuted.



Hair raising: children can choke on toys with long, synthetic hair, such as this fake Magic Troll

Religious conversion led to Sutcliffe's change of heart

Ripper confesses to two more attacks

By PAUL WILKINSON

PETER Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, has confessed to two unsolved attacks committed during the period when he was preying on women in and around West Yorkshire in the late 1970s.

One, on a 14-year-old girl at Sileiden, near Keighley, in August 1975, was carried out two months before the first of his killings. His victim took two years to recover fully after her skull was shattered by a claw hammer. The other attack was on a young Irish student in Bradford.

Despite the admissions the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills QC, has decided it would not be in the public interest to bring charges. Sutcliffe, 46, is already serving 20 life sentences imposed at the Old Bailey in 1981 for 13 murders and seven attempted killings.

Until now, the former Bradford lorry driver has refused to accept the blame for any other attacks. His change of heart is thought to stem

from his recent religious conversion as a Jehovah's Witness. About six weeks ago, he agreed to see Keith Hellawell, an assistant chief constable with West Yorkshire police during the Ripper enquiry and now chief constable of Cleveland.

They have met several times since his conviction and Mr Hellawell has built up a bond of trust. When they met inside

Broadmoor special hospital in Berkshire, where Sutcliffe is being treated for schizophrenia, he admitted attacking the Irish woman and assaulting Tracy Browne, a teenager from Shipley, in 1975.

Miss Browne, now aged 31 and living at Cottingham near Bradford, said yesterday: "I was always convinced it was the Ripper who attacked me. I had forgotten all about what

happened. I had put it all behind me and got on with my life. I don't want to think about it any more."

The attack happened as she walked home from a disco to her family's remote moorland farm. Her mother Nora said: "The most vivid thing I remember was when she came through the front door. I thought someone had thrown a pot of red paint over her, but

it wasn't, it was blood. It seems the Ripper had been disturbed as he was hitting her. They thought it was a claw hammer which was used."

"She suffered a fractured skull and there was a hole made in her skull," Surgeons had to perform an emergency operation to remove a sliver of bone from Miss Browne's brain.

Detectors had played her daughter a tape of a man who made calls claiming to be the killer, but she did not recognise him. It was later shown to be a hoax. She also helped to make a photo of a picture that looked very like Sutcliffe.

After his arrest, police interviewed Sutcliffe about the attack but he refused to admit it, challenging the officers to prove it. "We felt frustrated at the time," Mrs Browne said, "but we didn't think of taking any action. Our concern was for our daughter."

Her father Anthony, 68, said: "She has coped very well. There is nothing to show that she is any different than if this had not happened."

'I put it behind me and got on with my life. I don't want to think about it'



Confession: Sutcliffe, his confidant Keith Hellawell and his victim Tracy Browne

Barrister jailed for sex assault

A BARRISTER was jailed for two years by the Old Bailey yesterday for sexually assaulting his child minder while under the influence of marijuana.

Christopher Wren, 39, attacked the woman, 30, after smoking the drug at his home in Blackheath, south London, on April 30.

Judge Charles QC told him: "You are a highly intelligent man. You have an excellent degree and you are well qualified to exercise restraint and responsibilities as a husband and father and an employer."

"You abused all those positions on this particular day with Miss X. You persisted in seeking sexual gratification contrary to her wish. You took advantage of her when she was employed in your home. She was entitled to expect protection from you, not violation."

"You showed no contrition at all, through your plea of not guilty, and made her relive her ghastly experience in the witness box. She has suffered nightmares and she feels she does not want another male person to touch her... This was behaviour that was totally unacceptable. I wish I could see some alternative to imprisonment, but there is none."

Wren, who had been called to the Bar but worked as a shipping consultant, looked stunned as the jury, after a three and a half hour retirement, found him guilty of indecent assault.

Child cruelty enquiry blames council

HANDICAPPED children as young as six were smacked, had their hair pulled and were forced to eat regurgitated food at a council centre, an enquiry reported yesterday.

Lancashire County Council expressed deep regret over the findings of the investigation into Scofield House, Lancaster, a centre for autistic pupils.

Children were systematically ill-treated by staff, Louise Ellman, the leader of the council, apologised to parents and children for the distress

A report into the ill-treatment of autistic children in a home run by Lancashire County Council has criticised systematic cruelty and incompetence, Ronald Faux writes

caused, she said, by a combination of ill-treatment, inadequate supervision, the incompetence and insensitivity of some officers and failure to recognise the seriousness of parents' concern.

Mrs Ellman accepted the findings of the investigation conducted by Janet Smith QC. She said: "I deeply regret the incidences of ill-treatment and the failure of officers of the authority to investigate parents' complaints in a thorough open way."

The report found that the adviser appointed to supervise Scofield House had rarely visited the centre, did not observe teaching or meal times and did not meet staff or make any effective contribution to supervision. Primary responsibility for events at the centre from early 1987 to mid

1988 was that of Brenda Ford, the teacher in charge until her resignation in August 1988, but the findings of the advisory service had made an important contribution.

In September last year, Miss Ford was given an eight-month suspended sentence for cruelty at Preston Crown Court and two of her staff, Mary Milnes and Maureen Robinson, were conditionally discharged after pleading guilty to one charge each of assaulting pupils. They have been suspended on full pay ever since.

Mrs Smith said the authority had been dilatory and inept in the way it handled the aftermath of the discovery that children had been ill-treated. "The history of events is a catalogue of errors. From the initial failure to appreciate the

seriousness of the reports and the depth of justifiable parental concern, to the secretary of state's pronouncement three years later, the authority was acting unreasonably in refusing to tell parents what had happened to their children. Almost every stage reveals delay, inactivity and errors of judgment."

The authority, she said, had taken a position which was both morally and logically untenable. She criticised failure to undertake a wide ranging enquiry into what had happened.

The limited investigation arranged by Mark Ludlow, a senior council solicitor responsible for investigating the allegations, had been designed only to discover what disciplinary offences might have been committed by staff.

The investigation was carried out in such an incompetent and dilatory way, the report said, that 17 months elapsed before employees were brought to disciplinary hearings. The employee responsible, she said, had made representations to colleagues which were "less than honest".

Mrs Smith said that Andrew Collier, the council's chief education officer, was a very able man who had been let down by a number of much less competent subordinates. She said that when the errors were discovered, genuine efforts were made to put matters right and that since early 1991 the provision at Scofield House had been excellent.

Mrs Smith said that Miss Ford's management style had been old-fashioned and authoritarian. The atmosphere had been tense and uncomfortable, not conducive to reducing the confusion, isolation and unhappiness of autistic children. Meal times were particularly depressing and some children might be shouted at and have food forced into their mouths which were then clamped shut to make them swallow.

Forecast, page 20

Transplant patients share single liver

Surgeons split a single liver and transplanted the parts into a girl aged 3 and a man aged 25 yesterday. A medical team worked for 18 hours, shutting between two hospitals, to perform the second dual operation of its kind in Britain.

The transplant surgery started on Sunday night when the liver was flown from Glasgow to Birmingham Children's Hospital. Both patients were close to death and the donor liver was the only one with the right tissue available. The girl, from the Midlands, was later said to be in stable condition in intensive care.

The operation on the man at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, was continuing last night. Transplant surgeons led by David Mayer and John Buckels used a technique performed only in emergencies, which has a 50 per cent success rate. If all goes well, the section of liver grows inside the patient's body.

Dr James Neuberger, consultant physician at the Queen Elizabeth liver unit, said last night: "We were forced into this because both patients were hours from death and we could not afford to wait for another suitable donor."

Accidents cut profits

British companies were warned yesterday that workplace accidents, in which nine people are killed and 400 badly injured every week, can cost them a third of their profits. The warnings were delivered at the launch of Workplace Health and Safety Week, in which it is hoped that at least 10 per cent of the workforce will be involved. Patrick McLoughlin, junior employment minister, said that apart from legal and moral arguments for preventing accidents, "most companies, even the best, suffer a real, continuous and hidden financial haemorrhage through accidents". Jim Hammer, chairman of the week's organising committee, said: "It is down to each individual to be more aware."

Chess team expelled

A team playing under the World Chess Federation flag has been expelled from an important championship for the first time in the history of the game. The ban came at the European team chess championship, which began at the weekend in Debrecen, Hungary, attended by a team of grandmasters from the former Yugoslavia. After protests about their presence and their desire to play as Yugoslavia, the team was allowed to compete under the federation flag, an unprecedented decision. The team won its first round match against Czechoslovakia, but protests from competing teams before the second round yesterday led to the team being expelled and its score cancelled.

Damages reform urged

Fundamental changes to damages law, including a power for courts to order that accident victims receive compensation by instalments instead of in the traditional lump sum, are canvassed by the Law Commission in a working paper issued yesterday. The payment of damages by instalments, known as a structured settlement, is increasing and the paper, *Structured Settlements and Interim and Provisional Damages*, argues that "advantages clearly outweigh any disadvantages". It says that structured settlements, now entered into voluntarily by the victim and the defendant's insurer, can more effectively restore a victim to the position he would have been in but for an accident.

Ford strike vote agreed

Unions at the Ford Motor Company are to ballot all 25,000 manual workers for authority to call an all-out strike. The action is in response to the threat of the first compulsory redundancies at Ford for more than two decades, and in protest at plans to reduce payments to workers who are laid off because of weak demand for cars. Shop stewards agreed to call a postal ballot for an all-out strike, and action short of a strike, at a meeting in London yesterday. Jimmy Airlie, chief Ford negotiator of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said that Ford must be "insane" to seek a confrontation with the unions over job losses. "We hope at this late stage Ford will see sense and agree to talks."

Unlawful killing verdict

Katie Rackliffe, a hairdresser, died from 27 wounds to her neck, chest and abdomen, some time after she was seen staggering in a drunken state from a nightclub on June 6, an inquest was told yesterday. Friends told the jury at Basingstoke, Hampshire, that Miss Rackliffe, 18, had tried to re-establish a love affair with her boyfriend Metin Mustapha, 19. He told Andrew Bradley, the coroner, that he saw her at the nightclub in Camberley, Surrey, that evening. He said he slipped away to avoid further contact. Det Chief Insp Andy Longman said extensive enquiries had been pursued and possible lines of enquiry remained. The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

Lincoln text sets record

A paragraph written by Abraham Lincoln and taken from a speech he made in 1865 has broken the record for an American manuscript at \$1.32 million (£868,421). The concluding section from the president's inaugural address had been written into the autograph album of a friend. It was bought at Christie's New York by the Los Angeles dealer Profiles in History. The manuscript has spent the past 40 years in a cabinet in a New York city apartment and was noticed by Christie's during the valuation of an estate.

Nissan wins award

Nissan Motor yesterday became the first Japanese company to win Europe's Car of the Year Award, capturing the 1993 title with its British-made Micra mini car. The Micra, which is built at Washington, Tyne and Wear, was selected by an international jury of journalists which considered safety, comfort, performance, technical innovation and price competitiveness in reaching its decision. Fiat's Cinquecento was second and Renault's Safane was third, followed by the Mazda Xedos, the Mazda 626, and the Toyota Carina.

Study finds anti-women bias at Bar

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE shortage of women in the senior ranks of the Bar and the judiciary will be blamed on bias at all levels of the profession in a report today.

The report, which was commissioned jointly by the Bar and the Lord Chancellor's department, is expected to provide the first concrete evidence that women suffer discrimination at the Bar. The report, researched by TMS Consultants of Bournemouth, is expected to call for radical action by the Bar and the Lord Chancellor's department to put matters right.

The report comes after a survey by *Solicitors Journal*, published yesterday, of 1,000 people across England and Wales, which found that 65 per cent agreed that "judges are out of touch with everyday life and everyday people". Nearly 80 per cent thought there should be more women judges. There are four women High Court judges out of 83 and one Court of Appeal judge out of 27 is a woman.

Most people felt judges were too old and 68 per cent said the retirement age for judges should be reduced from 75. About 47 per cent favoured retirement for judges at 65 and 23 per cent at 60. The Lord Chancellor is trying to lower the judicial retirement age to 70 via a parliamentary bill.

Marie Staunton, publishing editor of *Solicitors Journal*, said: "The judiciary is too old, too male-dominated and too out of touch. The present secretive system of judicial appointments isn't producing judges whom the public are confident in. It is now time for a fair, open system which will produce judges who reflect the community and carry public support."

The survey found people equally divided between those who had less faith in the police after recent miscarriages of justice and those whose confidence remained the same.

Both surveys will be of concern to Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the Lord Chief Justice, who is to give this year's Dimbleby Lecture, "The judiciary in the 1990s". Lord Taylor has vowed to restore public confidence in the judiciary and to make judges appear more "user-friendly".

Leading article, page 17

The way it isn't



1953. She achieved no further success until "Jimmy Unknown" scraped to Number 15 in March 1956 and then disappeared entirely. And whatever became of The Big Ben Barrio Band, The Stargazers, Kitty Kallen and Perez Prado? Besides, Mrs Dylan has the permanence of Bach. The real sadness of today's pop stars is that, like swim-

mers hogging the diving-board and refusing to leap, they stick around too long, much to the boredom of everyone else. Middle-aged celebs such as Phil Collins, Elton John, Mick Jagger and Bob Dylan have shown that it is quite possible for pop star to be a viable career option, with career prospects substantially longer than one would enjoy in the armed services or as a newspaper editor.

Cliff Richard has had ten hits in five separate decades. Alan Parry's music is only justification for keeping up with unremitting speed, and the only sign of fashion, the only sign of a pop star is a permanent pop star.

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Heseltine fights back over Baghdad exports

Saddam armed at British expense, Cook tells MPs

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE LABOUR MOTION

THE government faced three charges over the arms-to-Iraq affair. Robin Cook told the Commons. It armed Saddam Hussein. It covered up that fact, and it was prepared to let three businessmen go to prison.

The shadow trade and industry secretary, opening a debate on a Labour motion, said that in the two years before the Gulf war the government had helped to equip the Iraqi war machine by providing hundreds of millions of pounds worth of machine tools straight to the munitions factories which made the weapons.

The question ministers never seemed to ask was why did Saddam want these sophisticated weapons in such vast quantities. They had shown "stark naivety". The machines were programmed to make fuses and shells and Matrix Churchill had tested them in Britain to see that they worked.

It now looked as if Britain would have to pick up part of the bill, because £330 million was still outstanding and export credit guarantees had been issued in respect of exports to Iraq. "We did not just arm his forces, we paid for them into the bargain," Mr Cook said.

If ministers argued that they needed the trade, at least that was a better defence than the contemptible one of blaming it all on Alan Clark, the former trade and industry minister, saying that they did not know what he was up to, that he was sneaking in by the back door at night and taking decisions when the rest of them had gone home.

Mr Cook said: "But Mr Clark left the trade and industry department in 1989 and the most controversial decisions were taken after he had left. Ministers were trying to blame the one man who had told the truth. He had let the cat out of the bag. John Major's defence in all this was that he was simply not told. Had Mr Major now asked his officials why they did not tell him?"

The Opposition had believed ministers when they had said that Britain would not export lethal or defence equipment to Iraq. They now knew that ministers knew that the machines were not general-purpose machine tools but equipment that would produce sophisticated weapons. There had been a

"This House notes the evidence that up to July 1990 the government was granting export licences for the supply to Iraq of defence equipment and munitions machines in clear breach of the Howes guidelines of 1985 preventing the export of equipment that would significantly enhance military capability; is concerned that as a result of the government's private change of policy, British servicemen may have been exposed to fire from shells and rockets made in munitions factories equipped by Britain; regrets that no statement was made in Parliament or in public about the

clear breach of what the House had been assured. The certificates of public interest immunity had been issued so that the contents of the documents they covered would not be disclosed. Mr Cook asked whether ministers could have persuaded themselves that they had acted honourably if the judge had not released the documents and the three businessmen had been jailed. "It is in the public interest for justice to be done, and justice would not have been done if these documents had not been released."

Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, defended the government against Mr Cook's allegations by emphasising the commercial pressures which the government was under at the time. A set of guidelines on sales was agreed in December 1984 and announced in the Commons in October 1985 by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the then foreign secretary. He emphasised that "by no means all our major competitors were so constrained".

He concentrated his attack on Mr Cook's repeated references to a cabinet committee meeting chaired by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, in July 1990, which had considered changing the export guidelines. Although the meeting made recommendations, no final decision had been taken and there had been no intention to make a statement to the Commons, as Mr Cook now demanded should have happened.

There were repeated discussions in Whitehall about the type of equipment that should be sold to Iraq, much of which had no military use at all. In a clear indication of the commercial considerations which weighed heavily with ministers at the time, he emphasised that there was "conflicting interest" and "changing circumstances".

At that stage, Iraq was receiving arms from all over the world, including Japan, the US, Germany, France and Switzerland and Mr Heseltine emphasised repeatedly that Britain faced intense commercial pressures. Some contracts were turned down "but what ministers had to weigh were often conflicting interests in changing circumstances. In interpreting policy guidelines, judgments had to be made about British contracts for British factories, offering British jobs, in circumstances where other people in other nations were queuing up to fill those orders if we didn't."

Mr Heseltine was asked by Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, and a further three times by Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, whether he had known that the defendants in the Matrix Churchill trial were acting in accord with government policy and were providing "valuable information to the security forces". Mr Heseltine refused to be drawn on the issue, claiming that these were matters for the Scott enquiry to investigate. "I believe it is essential that Lord Justice Scott should look at these matters and that is the only way the allegations made can be adequately dealt with," Mr Heseltine said.

The only decision he could personally make, Mr Heseltine added, was whether the legal advice given to him by the Attorney General gave him any discretion in whether to sign public interest immunity papers blocking the use of official documents in the trial.

The board of trade president attempted to deflect Labour attacks on the government's handling of the affair, with a sustained and angry denunciation of the "nauseating hypocrisy" of Mr Cook's allegations.

He was particularly critical of Mr Cook's comments yesterday that the outcome of the Scott enquiry "will depend on negotiations with Lord Justice Scott and the government". Mr Heseltine said Mr Cook had "smeared the judge of the court" with his "scandalous performance", but did not have the guts to withdraw the claim. Challenged twice by Mr Heseltine to withdraw the accusation, Mr Cook responded by asking the government to hold the enquiry in public if it truly believed it had nothing to hide.

Mr Cook's second act of hypocrisy, according to Mr Heseltine, was to suggest that in allowing the machine tool exports to Iraq, "the government set out to endanger British servicemen". The last Labour government had not blocked arms exports to Argentina before the Falklands war, despite the Argentine government's poor human rights record, Mr Heseltine said.



Lift-off: Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister, takes the controls of a ten-seater Cessna Caravan aircraft. Lady Chalker visited Stapleford aerodrome in Essex yesterday to name the aircraft Africa's Children. It will be used by Save the Children for famine relief in Somalia.

flying relief workers and supplies between bases in Nairobi and Djibouti and food and medical stations in famine-stricken areas, where the charity is feeding more than 30,000 children. Continued fighting and looting make overland travel too dangerous, and most aid is supplied by air. The plane, which cost £320,000, was bought with the help of a legacy from Ailsa Jones, of Chichester, West Sussex, who died earlier this year, and by fund-raising in the Isle of Man. Britain has this year given more than £27 million for Somali famine relief, including £500,000 to Save the Children.

Civil servants face harsh realities of market place

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's privatisation programme entered a new phase yesterday with a pledge to transfer many traditional state activities to the private sector.

Foreshadowing a white paper, tomorrow that will open up the jobs of some 40,000 civil servants to outside competition, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, said that ministers had embarked on a "long march" through Whitehall aimed at cutting back the state to a much smaller core.

Increasingly, the government would withdraw from providing services to people. Instead, it would be a purchaser, buying services from the public and private sectors alike on behalf of the country.

Mr Dorrell's remarks signalled an important shift in the government's thinking about the way it spends some £250 billion of taxpayers' money every year. Ministers are intent on building on the purchaser/provider split at the heart of the NHS reforms. Tomorrow William Waldegrave, the public services minister, will flesh out the new approach by announcing a big expansion of contracting out of civil service jobs.

Yesterday, Mr Dorrell was careful to say that in the NHS managers would continue to be restricted to buying most of their care from the public sector. However, in other parts of the public services, such as politically inspired curbs would no longer apply. "We are initiating a new review of the activities of government to develop the successful privatisation programme of the last decade. Ministers have decided that in

every department of state we must apply the back-to-basics test to every activity of government," he said. "The conventional question was 'what can we sell?' That question must now be turned on its head. Now we ask ourselves 'what must we keep?' What is the inescapable core of government?"

The upshot of such a review would be to sharpen the difference between purchasing and providing services. The electorate could expect the government to secure the provision of a range of social and other services. But it did not follow that the state had to deliver all those services itself. "Public sector providers will find their services tested against alternatives available in the private sector," he said.

Mr Waldegrave's white paper will increase 50-fold the amount of "market testing" of Whitehall activities, such as legal and secretarial work, accountancy and computing. Private firms will be invited to tender for contracts worth £1.5 billion, and in-house staff will be encouraged to form teams to compete against them. Ministers believe the move could save about 25 per cent, or £400 million of the total bill.

Mr Dorrell's remarks to a meeting organised by the Centre for Policy Studies, a Conservative think-tank, were a clear signal that other branches of the civil service would eventually be put out to tender.

The citizen's charter's "formidable catalogue of progress in the past year" will be seen in tomorrow's white paper, Mr Waldegrave, the minister responsible for the charter, told MPs. He faced accusations from Labour that the charter had been a cosmetic exercise, a sham and "more of a farce than an asset to consumers".

In response to MPs' demands for assurances that British Rail would not be allowed to scale down its passenger's charter targets on punctuality, Mr Waldegrave insisted that the "presumption is that standards should rise."

Labour postpones its redundancies

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SWEEPING redundancies at senior levels of the Labour party organisation will be delayed until December or January while it is decided how the job losses should be shared.

A final report on how the party is to cut spending by 30 per cent next year was to be presented to the national executive tomorrow, a significant number of job losses were expected at the party's London headquarters and at regional offices.

Last month the NEC was told that more than half its committees would be abolished and they would only be able to meet once every two months instead of monthly. It was also speculated that up to one in three of the party's 120 headquarters staff would be made redundant by the middle of this month.

It is now clear that the final

report will be postponed until the NEC meeting on December 16, or later, as the finance working party is nowhere near reaching conclusions on how the cuts will be shared.

Members have agreed that London and regional offices should bear the brunt of the cuts, but there is also concern that there are not enough constituency workers.

Members of the working party are pressing for an expansion of staff at local level as part of a drive to reform the top-heavy organisation and to ensure that the party can recruit more effectively and campaign on key areas.

The working party has already made clear to staff representatives that it will try to ensure that activities are cut at the same rate as staff so that the remaining workforce will not have to take on a much greater workload.



Cook: demanding answers from the government

'Slippery' answers attacked

By JONATHAN PRYNN

PADDY Ashdown has accused the prime minister of "an appalling dereliction of his responsibility" in claiming ignorance of the changes made to official guidelines on arms-related exports to Iraq in 1988.

Mr Ashdown's strongly worded comments came in response to a letter from Mr Major. The Liberal Democrat leader had asked the prime minister to explain why the change in the guidelines had not been announced to Parliament. In his letter, Mr Major claimed that he was "not a party" to discussions on the so-called Howes guidelines, which were changed after the 1988 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, and "had no reason to know about them".

Mr Ashdown said the prime minister had failed to answer any of the questions he had asked about changes to the guidelines. "Instead he has fallen back on the oldest ministerial trick of answering a question I did not ask," Mr Ashdown said. "If the prime minister continues to respond



10 DOWNING STREET

'I was not a party to those decisions and I had no reason to know about them'

In this slippery way, he will not regain the confidence of the British people — and he will not deserve it."

In the letter to Mr Ashdown, Mr Major wrote that "the many issues about the guidelines and their interpretation which have been raised can only be answered" by Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the circumstances of the Iraq exports. Mr Ashdown responded by claiming that the prime minister was "stone-walling" and sheltering behind the Scott enquiry, adding that this was "a disreputable position for British government."

Both main opposition parties have accused the prime

minister of misleading the Commons by failing to announce the change in policy. The original 1985 guidelines banned the sale of "lethal equipment" that could prolong the war between Iran and Iraq. Downing Street admitted last week that this policy was relaxed in December 1988, allowing British firms, including Matrix Churchill, to export munitions-making machine tools to Baghdad.

In his letter Mr Major said that leaked official documents show that "machine tools continued to be considered case by case and by reference to their assessed end use."

12,000 Scottish jobs go

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

NEARLY 12,000 jobs have been lost in a wave of closures in Scotland in the past five months, according to figures produced by the Labour party yesterday.

Job losses north of the border, in large companies and small, were now running at the rate of 600 a week, the party said. The current total of 24,000 people unemployed in Scotland could rise to more than 300,000 with the future of the big Rosyth naval dockyard now in the balance, it said.

Labour's figures, which are based on surveys of redundancies reported by the national and regional press, were calculated by Henry McLeish, the

party's Scottish industry spokesman and MP for Central Fife.

Many of the 11,761 jobs lost in that period were in engineering, oil and construction. However, the survey also included the 3,500 redundancies announced on Thursday by the Royal Bank of Scotland, some of which will take place at branches in England.

The worst-hit areas were north-east Scotland and the central belt, according to Labour's figures.

Mr McLeish said: "Without a doubt there are thousands more employees who were informed in the past 24 months that they too were the victims of government's economic policy and would soon be receiving their P45."

MPs hope for a rethink on asylum bill

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

ONE of the most contentious clauses of the asylum and immigration bill, covering compulsory fingerprinting of asylum seekers, may be amended, Charles Wardle, the Home Office minister, is considering concessions on fingerprint testing in response to demands from MPs of all parties.

Tory backbenchers serving on the bill's Commons standing committee have called for the rules to be eased for applicants under the age of 18.

Although Mr Wardle has ruled out the possibility of exempting minors, committee members have been encouraged by his assurance that he will consider a clause change to ensure that minors are accompanied by an independent adult when being tested. Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, asked

for the amendment to apply to those under 18, although it is more likely that any alteration will cover those up to the age of 16.

The minister will also consider tightening up the wording of the bill on the categories of people allowed to conduct the tests. The wording may be amended to specify Home Office civil servants. The government sees fingerprinting as a key step in preventing asylum seekers making multiple applications.

Labour MPs yesterday took the rare step of setting up their own "rebel" special standing committee on the bill, inviting independent witnesses to give evidence on the bill, which is aimed at curbing the numbers seeking asylum in Britain. Opposition MPs are annoyed that the government has not set up a special committee in advance of the main committee, a procedure

sometimes introduced for contentious legislation.

Anthony Scrivener QC, former chairman of the Bar Council, was one of those who gave evidence. He accused the government, through removing the right of appeal for some asylum seekers, of creating a unique situation in British law under which immigration officers' decisions could not be questioned. "I can't think of any judge in the country who has never had a successful appeal against a decision. Everyone makes mistakes."

Graham Allen, Labour's home affairs spokesman who called the special meeting, said: "The government should have allowed the special standing committee to go ahead so we could concentrate on the important issues during the standing committee stage."



Scrivener: bill creates a "unique situation" in law



Councils to set limits

Local authorities are to be given greater powers to impose speed limits. John MacGregor, the transport secretary, announced at a question time. Councils will no longer have to apply to the secretary of state before imposing a limit.

New criteria will mean that councils will give more weight to environmental considerations and will not have to prove a poor accident record before imposing a limit.

BR delay

Government plans to award the first passenger franchise to a private sector rail operator by April 1994 are likely to be delayed by several months because of the pressure of parliamentary business. John MacGregor, the transport secretary, said yesterday. The bill paving the way for the breakup and sale of the rail network, which was due to go before the Commons later this month, will now be delayed until the new year.

MP ill

Tom Clarke, the shadow Scottish secretary, is to take a two-month break because of ill health. He has stepped down from his duties until mid-January to recuperate from "a recurring viral infection". Mr Clarke's front-bench duties will be covered by Henry McLeish, shadow Scottish industry spokesman and MP for Fife Central.

City aid

The government will be pressed today by John Greenway, Tory MP for Ryedale and chairman of the all-party insurance and financial services group, to help underwrite insurance for City buildings and businesses particularly at risk from terrorist attack.

Timetable

It will take about 53 months to build the Jubilee line extension to the London Underground once work starts, Steven Norris, London's transport minister, said in a written reply.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: defence, prime minister. Debate on EC budget. Lords (2.30): European economic area bill, third reading. Sea fish (conservation) bill, report.

Scheme will be a success when television soap characters are itching to achieve an NVQ, says Shephard

Agenda set for training the nation

By NICHOLAS WATT

A MUDDLE is Gillian Shephard's description of the training and education system she inherited when she became employment secretary in April.

She agrees that the alphabet soup of acronyms for her department's training schemes is largely unknown. But she believes the government has now laid the right framework for creating a skills revolution to enable Britain to match its competitors.

She says she will measure her success by the number of characters in television soap operas itching to achieve a National Vocational Qualification, the skills-based awards. "Until you get someone in *EastEnders* wanting to get an NVQ and everyone who watches *EastEnders* understanding what is meant, we shall not have succeeded," she said. "We have got to put a lot more effort into it." After Mrs Shephard had turned to a soap opera for inspiration, she was disconcerted to meet a senior businessman who had never heard of another of her pet projects, the Investors in People scheme that aims to have 6,000 companies training their workforces by 1996.

"He has certainly heard of the scheme now. But I regard it as a failure on my part and my department's part that he hadn't heard of it. It should trip off his tongue."

Despite her admission, Mrs Shephard rejected TUC claims that few companies had signed up for IIP and that she would have to dilute her targets. "So far, 106 companies have signed up, 1,300

have agreed to achieve the standard and 2,000 to 3,000 are negotiating with the Training and Enterprise Councils to get the standards," she said. "If those 2,000 to 3,000 come on stream next year, we will be well on the way to achieving that target."

To people who scorn Britain's training and who idealise Germany and Japan, Mrs Shephard says that Britain has made great progress in the past five years.

She says it now does many things better than Germany. "There is a

greater enthusiasm in this country for workplace training than in Germany or France and a greater acceptance that it is a good thing," she says. "In the last five years, we've got 2.5 million more people with A levels, we've also got 2

million more people in the workforce who are qualified at A level or above than we had five years ago. Something like three quarters of the workforce now has a qualification." The right framework in education was at last in place. Mrs Shephard sympathised with young unemployed people who told *The Times* that they had



'Britain has a greater enthusiasm for training in the workplace than its main competitors'

Gillian Shephard

been poorly advised by careers officers before leaving school at 16. A former careers officer herself, she agreed the present system was flawed and said that she was piloting the trade union and employment rights bill through the Commons to redress weaknesses.

"Many people in the careers service want greater freedom to do more assessment when people are younger. We can't do that with the structure as it is," she said.



Career U-turn: Yolande Beaumont has gone from nursing to car assembly at Toyota, via training in Japan and the US

Firms pay millions to bridge skills gap

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE blonde head of Yolande Beaumont bobbed between oncoming cars as she wielded her electric screwdriver like a seasoned cowboy with a six-gun. Around her, veteran Japanese car workers nodded approval as she tackled half-completed Toyotas with relish and a huge grin.

Japanese training has turned Miss Beaumont from an NHS nurse into a leader of an elite band of workers who will start up car assembly lines for Toyota at Burnaston, Derbyshire, next month. Toyota says she is an ideal recruit: unskilled as a factory worker, but able to learn and adapt under its training system.

The gap in skills is overcome by the kind of intensive in-house training with which a government scheme could not compete. She

was sent to work on Toyota assembly lines in Japan and the United States to learn every facet of car assembly. Now Miss Beaumont, 25, is a team leader, passing on her skills to hundreds of other workers in a £7.2 million scheme to prepare 1,500 workers in time for the first Toyota cars to roll off the Derbyshire line on December 16.

Miss Beaumont's training is far removed from any given to job-seekers going through government training schemes. Car companies demand adaptability from staff able to deal with different jobs — and their training never stops.

Rover, for instance, calculates that 10,000 of its 34,000 workers are in training courses at any one time because the pace of techno-

logical change is now so rapid. The Rover Learning Business costs the company about £120 million a year.

Barrie Oxboby, learning development manager at Rover, said: "Government schemes are too general and there is a huge lag between what they provide and what industry requires. It is out of synch with our requirements."

"We need government officials to get their coats off and to come and see what we do so that they have a better idea of the people and the training we need. The motor industry's needs have moved on from trying to recruit specific skills. Even the highest skilled maintenance men must now be able to cover a range of crafts, from the

traditional job of an electrician to fitter or welder."

The decision to "go it alone" extends to the need to find the best brains for design and engineering. Rover is one of a number of motor firms that sponsor courses at Warwick University to produce people skilled in computer-aided design and engineering.

Rover also gives workers £100 a year to spend on any training course they like, from foreign languages to livestock husbandry.

Mr Oxboby said: "There is always this idea that training is somehow remedial, that they are trained because they were not good enough."

"But we regard the idea of continuous learning as important, which is why we have the employee assisted learning scheme."

Japanese demand quality

By NICHOLAS WATT

JAPANESE companies in Britain have been so frustrated by poorly trained workers that they have insisted colleges which provide new recruits must improve syllabuses.

They complain of a lacklustre attitude among workers, particularly supervisors, who fail to anticipate problems on the factory floor. In Japan, machines are checked regularly and adjusted before they break down. This anticipatory system is alien to Britain.

Noriko Hama, of Mitsubishi Research, dismisses British training. "Japanese businesses had to start from scratch to teach their workers here to reverse the consumer," she said. "The Japanese found it difficult to convince their British workers that the consumer was God and should be offered a fragrant offering. The British are very much happy to settle for second best both in terms of skills and what the consumer expects."

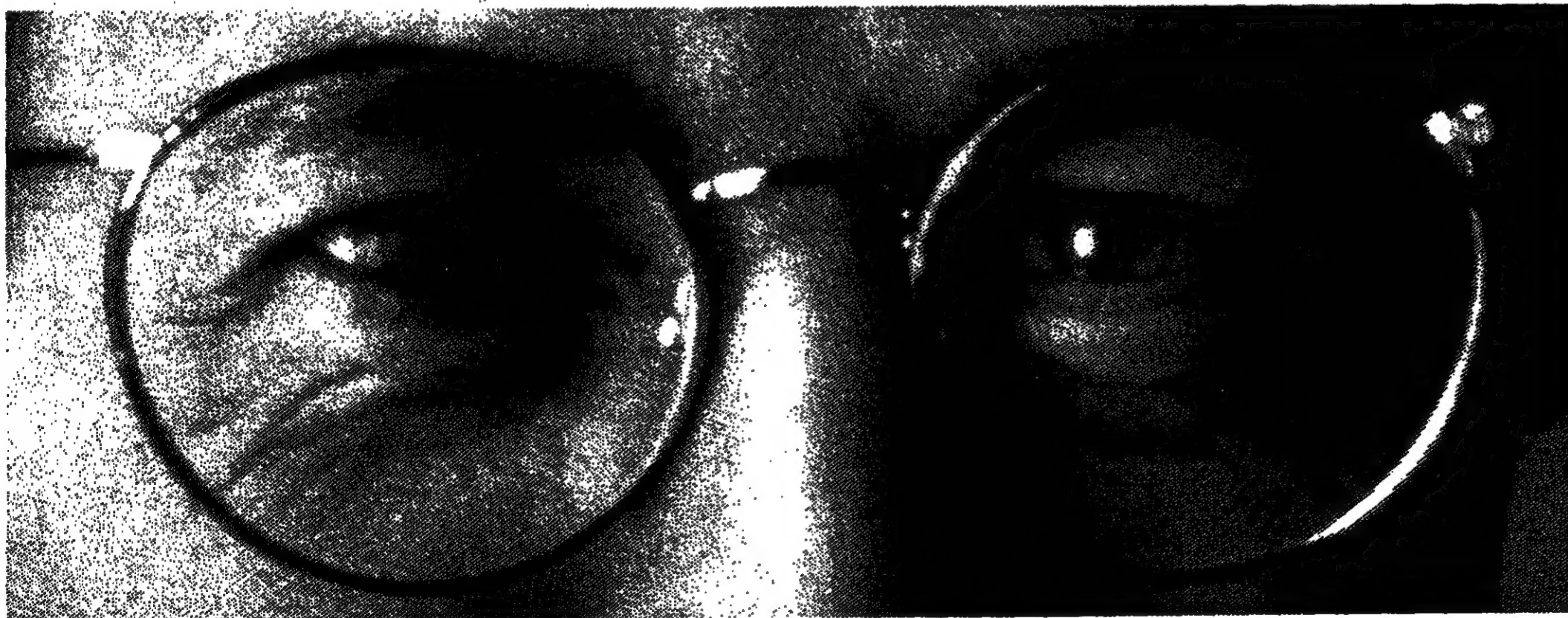
"The British consumer is a long-suffering species that is willing to take what is offered. During the Industrial Revolution, Britain was streets ahead of the rest of the world but now history is turning against Britain."

Japan and Germany remained at the pinnacle of training and could teach Britain a great deal, she said. "Britain really does not count on this issue. In Japan, training is rigorous and fresh recruits learn about every facet of the company. Britain could do well to follow this notion that every single person is aware of every single aspect of their company."

Alan Smithers, head of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Manchester University, says Britain seems oblivious to Japanese achievements and unable to learn from their expertise. "In the Pacific Rim, youngsters have an excellent grasp of maths and electronics."

"If we are not careful we could be reduced to a third division power boogie from the sidelines at clever Orientals who don't play a fair game. It is as if we prefer to live in honourable poverty," he said.

Research has shown that two thirds of the British workforce lacks vocational qualifications, compared with a quarter in Germany.



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مكتبة الأصيل

Jordan's prince of peace unfurls the banner of reason



Hassan: little patience with bureaucracy

CROWN Prince Hassan, the heir to the throne of Jordan, represents a new generation of Middle Eastern leader anxious to transform the region.

A fluent speaker of Hebrew, an outspoken critic of Arab dictators and a near contemporary of Bill Clinton's at Oxford, the prince was reluctantly thrust under the spotlight after King Hussein, his elder brother, was confirmed to have cancer. But he has refused to curb his undiplomatic bluntness or his belief that Jews and Arabs should live side by side with the same harmony as the Scandinavian nations.

"I have never forgotten the integrity with which I was treated by my [Jewish] professors at Oxford in those awful months leading up to the 1967 war," he said. "Never

The heir to the throne has the will to unite a nation divided between East Bank Arabs and Palestinians, writes Christopher Walker from Amman

an unkind word, never an accusation, never a parochial influence of any kind. I respected that and we remain friends."

The prince is aware that some members of what he terms dismissively "Jordan's chattering classes" do not think he has the charisma to bind together a nation divided between Palestinians and East Bank Arabs. He knows, too, that he enjoys strong support in the army and the security services.

"I do not know what I have to do to get it right," he said of remarks levelled against him

by those who regard his approach as too intellectual and aloof. "Maybe just do more of the same and be more accessible to people to explain, not myself, but what I am trying to achieve."

The increasing flow of visitors to his hilltop palace close to that of the king, who has ruled for the past 40 years, is confronted by a witty, well-read — quotes from Shakespeare are dropped effortlessly — man of 45. His main fault in the eyes of critics is that he is over-educated for the role chosen for him.

His great problem is that

his rational approach to the 44-year Arab-Israeli conflict may fail to win over the Islamic extremists and Palestinian radicals who pose the main threat to Jordan's stability. "I think all this business about 'the talks have been fruitful' or 'have been fruitless' is a fruitless exercise in itself," he said of speculation that Jordan and Israel are close to signing a Camp David-style peace treaty. "I think we are really close to an agenda, but an agenda which will march in pace with interim Palestinian self-government."

At the Guildhall in London on Thursday, he will stand in for King Hussein in delivering the annual Winston Churchill address to the English Speaking Union. Some MPs tried but failed to blackball the invitation, angered that such an honour should go to the

representative of a country accused of siding with Iraq in the Gulf war. "The host [Lord Pym] told them that not everyone in the audience has to share the view of the speaker," the prince said. "I shall be looking at the Hashemites' relationship with Britain. We have come a long way since the Gulf war to put Jordan back on the map and the speech will be another step in that direction."

Asked to reconcile Jordan's recent distancing from Iraq with the special treatment given here to Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, en route to lobby the United Nations yesterday, end sanctions, the prince emitted one of his characteristic thunderous guffaws. "I share your confusion," he said with a candour rarely heard from Arab leaders. "Iraqi officials

pass through Amman to go to New York, yet at the same time we are saying to the Iraqis publicly and privately that evolution is necessary to their stability and the stability of the region."

Prince Hassan is a technocrat, impatient with the Arab bureaucracy holding up his attempts to boost Jordan's economy. He shares a love of polo with the Prince of Wales, whom he admires, and with his Harrovia accent and dressed in an impeccably tailored suit he appears to some more at home around a high table than in a bedouin tent.

He dismissed rumours in Amman about the seriousness of the king's illness as "speculative and harmful". The prince said it was not personal ambition that had placed him ahead of his elder brother,

Mohammed, and the king's sons by different marriages as next in line for the Arab world's most delicately balanced throne.

"There is an Arabic expression 'He who seeks authority does not have it invested in him' and I was not the one who sought authority in the first place," he said as his Australian secretary took notes. "I was an undergraduate in my first year at Oxford when I was called back and appointed/elected crown prince by act of parliament and his majesty's delegation."

"I do not believe in Olympian concepts of the man in charge, and that is exactly what His Majesty meant when he said [in a televised speech to the nation on November 5] that we have to end absolutism and totalitarianism in the region."

Husain throws down democratic challenge to dictator of Iraq

Husain's call for pluralism in Iraq was another step away from his Gulf war stance. But Jordan is still dependent on Baghdad's oil

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

KING Hussein of Jordan, who recently legalised political parties after a 36-year ban, yesterday called for the introduction of democracy, including pluralism, in Iraq, the most brutal Arab dictatorship.

In an outspoken speech containing no mention of his failing health, the Hashemite monarch, 57, also attacked Muslim fundamentalists and Palestinian radicals plotting to overthrow him. His address to army graduates included a firm pledge to continue with

the democratisation begun after the 1989 price riots.

Next year some ten parties are to contest parliamentary elections in Jordan, but the king is under growing pressure to turn the country into a constitutional monarchy. "We perceive Jordanian democracy as a model and an example as well as a final choice for our people from which there will be no turning back," he declared yesterday.

The king's call for reform in Baghdad was seen as a direct

personal challenge to President Saddam Hussein and a snub to his recent efforts to halt Jordan's move to distance itself from Iraq. In his second important speech since returning from cancer surgery in America, the king openly named Iraq in his appeal for reform. In his previous address he alluded only indirectly to Saddam's "tyranny".

"We only wish for Iraq what we wish for ourselves and the Arab people, wherever they may be. What we wish for is a national reconciliation and democracy which would enable it to overcome all obstacles," the king said. "We also wish for political pluralism which would achieve stability and establish trust among brethren." His call was seen by Arab diplomats as likely to encourage opposition to Saddam and to increase demands for Jordan to allow opposition groups to operate from its soil.

Western embassies had been told that the king would step up his attempts to realign Jordan after fierce criticism of its pro-Iraqi stand in the Gulf war. Jordan's position has been complicated because it still depends on the import of 60,000 barrels of Iraqi oil a day sent across the border at no charge technically as payment of outstanding debts.

The king was speaking for the first time since granting an amnesty to two pro-Islamic deputies sentenced to 20 years' hard labour for plotting to overthrow the monarchy and replace it with an Iranian-style republic. Declaring that "we remain perfectly capable of facing up to waywardness and conspiracy," the king denied his decision to free the plotters was a sign of defeatism.

"We know well how to distinguish between good and evil, and realise full well that our attitude of decency reflects compassion, not weakness, and stems from noble-mindedness, not apprehension," he said.

□ **Baghdad:** In a rare interview, published yesterday, Saddam predicted that the international isolation of Iraq would not last much longer. "I think the world would not be able to do without a country like Iraq. So, one would find it difficult to imagine that the world will continue to snub Iraq for a very long time," he said. (AFP)



Carrying on the fight: Antonio Gomes da Costa, pictured at a secret mountain camp in Indonesian-ruled East Timor, has taken over as leader of the Fretilin guerrilla group. His predecessor, Xanana Gusmão, was captured by government troops on Friday in the capital city of Dili. Fretilin has been waging a separatist campaign since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975. (Reuters)

Disillusioned Angola voters wait in fear for renewal of civil war

FROM SAM KILEY IN HUAMBO

WITH senior commanders on both sides of the Angolan conflict losing control of their men, United Nations observers have described the situation around Huambo, the temporary headquarters of Jonas Savimbi's Unita (Union for the Total Liberation of Angola), as "a guaranteed recipe for conflict".

Although the armies of the government and Unita have for the past two weeks observed a tenuous ceasefire in much of the country, UN military observers in Huambo, Angola's second largest city, said at the weekend that the ceasefire would hold for only a short time unless a radical political solution could

be found to the present standoff. Huambo has recently twice been the scene of heavy fighting.

With Dr Savimbi and Unita politicians refusing to attend Friday's opening of the Angolan legislature, in which they have 70 seats, for fear of assassination attempts, soldiers on both sides appear to be preparing for battle. "It is now clear that neither side was at all committed to the peace process," a senior UN official in Luanda said yesterday. "The flashpoint may be the convening of parliament or it may come later. But fighting now looks almost inevitable," he added.

Fear of renewed fighting

has paralysed most of the country. Huambo, once a bustling provincial capital, is almost silent as its citizens wait in fear. "We want an end to the war. We voted, we believed in democracy, and now it has all fallen apart," one elderly local businessman said.

In an effort to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table, Margaret Anstee, head of the UN mission to Angola, is expected to fly to Huambo to see Dr Savimbi this week. But UN sources and other diplomats agree there is little she can do because both sides have drifted too far apart since Dr Savimbi left Luanda last month denouncing the elections, which he lost, as rigged.

Peking delivers ultimatum to Patten

BY CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING AND DAVID WATTS

PEKING has heightened the war of nerves over Hong Kong by ruling out further talks on reform until Chris Patten, the governor, drops proposals for more democracy.

Lu Ping, who heads the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, has sworn that China will ultimately "emerge victorious" in this new round of diplomatic arm-wrestling. "First of all," said Mr Lu, "the British side must acknowledge that all understandings and agreements reached between China and Britain remain effective, and Patten must withdraw his proposals. These are the preconditions for talks. Otherwise, the British side could tear up any agreements we reach in the future whenever it wanted."

Peking maintains that China and Britain reached a secret understanding in 1990 on the extent of democratisation in the 1995 elections. Publication by both sides of the relevant diplomatic exchanges revealed only an "agreement in principle" qualified by a series of conditions Britain says were never met.

The governor is likely to annoy Peking further with a trip to Japan this week when he will meet Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister. The trip is geared to boosting investment in the colony.

Already Japan is one of the largest investors, with holdings of \$10 billion (£6 billion), but the government in Peking is likely to see it as another step in what it calls the internationalisation of the Hong Kong question to which it is bitterly opposed.

So far Japan has taken a cautious stance on Mr Patten's proposals, but Canada, Australia and America have already declared their support for his reforms. Mr Patten insists that his proposals, which expand the franchise in the 1995 elections, do not violate any agreements and has declared himself willing to hold talks on political reform in Hong Kong with any Chinese official at any time, anywhere. He has also asked that Peking stop criticising his proposals and instead make constructive proposals of its own.

Mr Lu's remarks were made in Peking and reported in the pro-Peking Hong Kong press yesterday. They come just days after Zhu Rongji, the Chinese deputy prime minister, hinted in Britain that China might cease to uphold the 1984 joint declaration, which protects Hong Kong's way of life for 50 years after the handover to Peking in 1997.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif hits back at Bhutto

Chakwal, Pakistan: Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister has urged people to reject a "long march" by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and join his march towards progress and prosperity.

Addressing 20,000 people at a rally in Chakwal, 50 miles southeast of Islamabad, he appeared to rule out talks to end an increasingly bitter confrontation with the former prime minister. "Our march will be for removing poverty, opening schools, colleges and dispensaries and constructing motorways," he said, adding that Miss Bhutto's sole objective was power and not improvement of the people's lot.

Miss Bhutto planned to start a cross-country train journey late yesterday from the southern city of Karachi to drum up support for her drive to oust a government she accuses of corruption and election fraud. (Reuters)

Sub on show

Tehran: Iran put its Russian-built submarine on display at the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas. The purchase of the vessel, one of the largest built by the former Soviet Union, has been criticised by the West and Arab states. (AP)

Storms kill 26

Brandon, Mississippi: Tornadoes sweeping through southern states have left 26 people dead, 15 of them in Mississippi. Houses and caravans were swept away and heavy damage was reported as far north as Ohio and Indiana. (AFP)

Crash survivor

Hanoi: A Dutch woman, 32, who was the only survivor of a plane crash in southern Vietnam last week in which 30 people, including a Briton, died was flown to Ho Chi Minh City from a village in Khanh Hoa province. Vietnam Airlines said. (Reuters)

Gay ban lifted

Sydney: Australia's Labour government has scrapped a ban on homosexuals joining the armed forces. Labour sources said the case for change had been strengthened by a similar decision by Bill Clinton, the American president-elect. (Reuters)

Contest threat

Johannesburg: The African National Congress is threatening to stop the Miss World contest in Bophuthatswana next month unless Lucas Mangope, the homeland's leader, allows free trade union activity and repeals laws against mass action.

Clan wars bring harvest of terror in Natal's fertile valleys

Feuding local supporters of Inkatha and the African National Congress tell Michael Hamlyn of their battles

Leading from Richmond, a little market town nestling in the hills 20 miles from Pietermaritzburg, Natal's provincial capital, is an area of villages, or "locations", where apartheid housed the black workers needed for the white farms and agribusinesses, and stored the unused reserves of labour.

The broad valleys are fertile and, thanks to the spring rains, green again after the long drought; even the "locations" are attractive, with purple bursts of jacaranda and bougainvillea. The cattle are sleek, but no maize grows in the fields: maize grows tall and allows your enemy to creep too close to your kraal. This has been a scene of vicious fighting for territory,

for the political control of the black population. Patheni is under the control of the Inkatha Freedom Party. The other "locations" are claimed by the African National Congress. The burnt-out houses in Patheni are where the ANC members used to live. In Indaleni the burnt buildings are mostly Inkatha followers' homes. In between, many of the houses have been burnt in the conflict.

No one here really knows how it all began. Everyone knows that gradually a tradi-

tional Zulu faction fight, or *umhango*, became a political war, fought with AK47 assault rifles or G3 sub-machineguns instead of spears and knobkerries.

Paulus Vazi, who looks every inch a warlord, with a shaven head and broken-toothed snarl, is Inkatha chairman in Patheni. He thinks it all began when people from a clan in Indaleni killed a member of a rival clan in Patheni. One clan was helped

by the ANC and some of the "comrades" began attacking the Patheni villagers. Naturally, Inkatha had to defend them.

Sifiso Nkabinde, in Indaleni, the Richmond district chairman of the ANC, broad and bearded, thinks it began in January 1990, with a raid on his uncle's house by men from Patheni. One attacker died and his home-made weapon was captured by the defenders. A second man allowed his weapon, an army issue rifle, to fall into the hands of the Indaleni villagers. The Patheni side demanded the rifle back and mounted a revenge expedition. Eight people died that night.

A row ensued over the

elected chief of Indaleni, Patrick Majoni was not a success in the job, but there seemed to be no way of getting rid of him except by chasing him away. He sought the support of the (Inkatharun) KwaZulu government, who armed him and his supporters and guarded him, to no avail. He now lives in a village some miles away.

Battles between Inkatha and the ANC intensified, and many people, including Mr Nkabinde, the ANC chief, died for their lives. In March the young men returned and launched themselves on the Inkatha followers. "More than 100 died that day," said Mr Nkabinde.

An Inkatha attack on homes in greater Indaleni in June has led to court cases on counts of murder and attempted murder.

The ANC is claiming its members have the right to live where they choose and to free political activity. The Patheni population fears that, once they allow the young comrades of the ANC into their village, it would be tantamount to letting an enemy *impi* (Zulu regiment) take up residence.

The Patheni people say the authority of Patheni's hereditary chief, in traditional Zulu fashion, before they are allowed to return. The ANC says it rejects such non-democratic archaisms.

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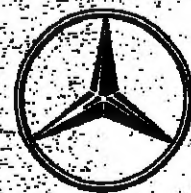
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Haitians set test for Democrats' new team

■ Bill Clinton is swiftly backtracking on his campaign pledge to provide a refuge for Haitian boat people. But the message has not got through to the would-be refugees

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TENS of thousands of Haitians are expected to make a further attempt to reach the United States after Bill Clinton's inauguration on January 20, presenting the new president with an immediate and serious problem largely of his own making.

Eye-witnesses, refugee organisations and Bush administration sources all confirm that preparations are well advanced for a new mass exodus from the impoverished Caribbean nation, currently under military rule.

"When the US Coast Guard has flown over Haiti they have seen hundreds of boats being built," a State Department official said yesterday. William O'Neill, deputy director of New York's Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, fore-

They escaped and rioted, contributing heavily to his only gubernatorial defeat the following year.

During this year's election campaign Mr Clinton repeatedly condemned the Bush administration's policy of intercepting and repatriating the Haitian boat people without a hearing, even though it had dramatically cut the number attempting the perilous voyage. His platform, "Putting People First", said the Haitians should be given "refuge ... until democracy is restored" in their homeland.

Since the election Mr Clinton has hastily qualified his position. Last week he said the Haitians should be given only "the chance to make a case" for temporary asylum and emphasised that it would be "very unwise for anybody to think that I'm going to articulate a policy that would promote mass migration". In Haiti, however, the belief that the new administration will welcome Haitian boat people had already taken hold.

□ **Claims rejected:** Charges that officials of the Reagan-Bush election campaign sought to delay the release of American hostages in Iran for electoral reasons are not supported by the evidence, a Senate report said yesterday.

But the report, by a special counsel to a Senate foreign relations subcommittee, said the evidence suggested that William Casey, the campaign director, made clandestine efforts to gather intelligence on hostage negotiations between the Carter administration and Iran. (Reuters)



cast that up to 40,000 Haitians would flee in rickety boats in the coming months. Some observers even talk of an exodus to match the 1980 Mariel exodus when President Castro sent 125,000 Cuban refugees to Florida.

Mariel was a political disaster not only for President Carter but for Mr Clinton. As a young first-term governor, he agreed to hold many of the Cubans in Arkansas prisons.

Clinton takes gamble in Georgia vote

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN MACON, GEORGIA

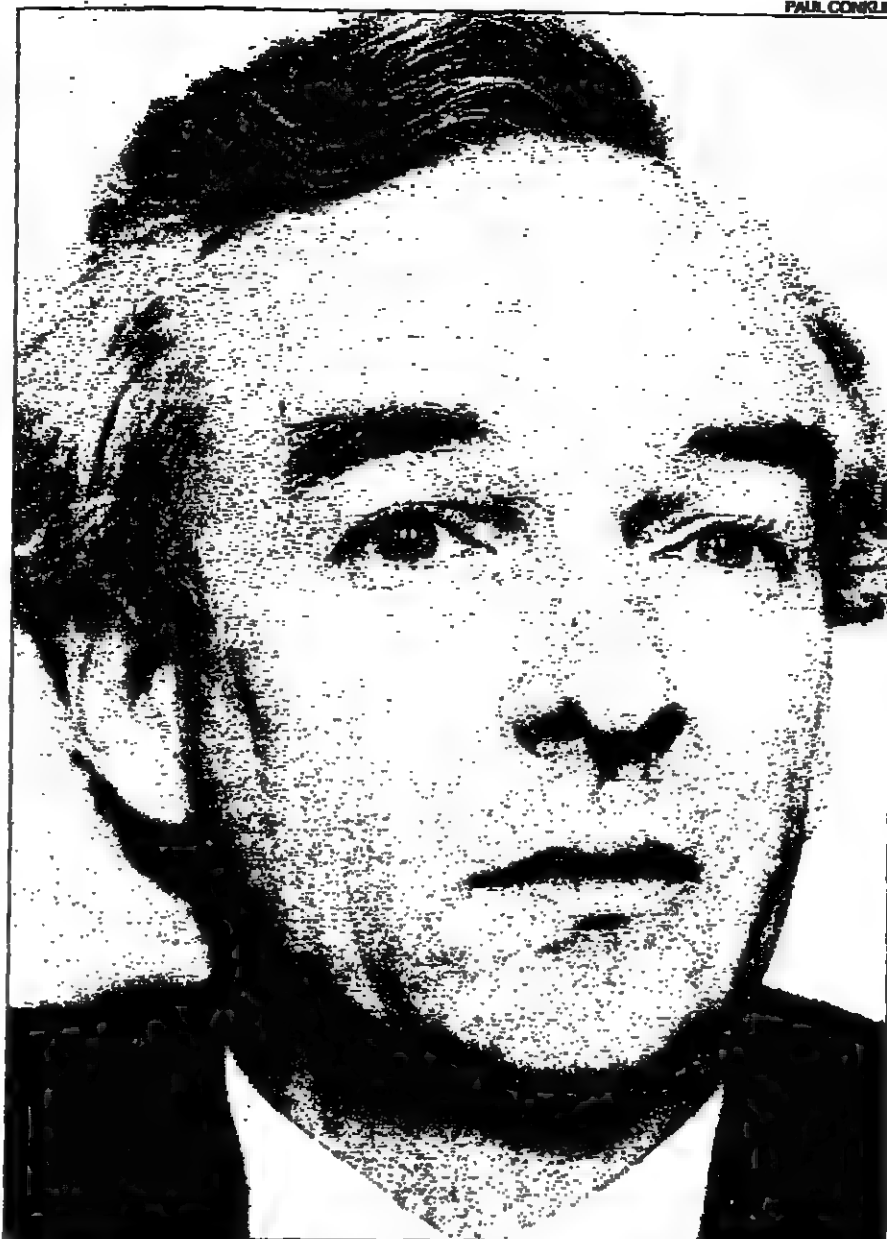
BILL Clinton, America's president-elect, might have been expected to steer clear of the campaign trail for a while, but yesterday he was back on the stump in Georgia supporting Senator Wyche Fowler, the Democrat whose run-off election today against the Republican contender, Paul Coverdell, is widely seen as the first big hurdle of the incoming administration — or a chance for the outgoing one to salvage a symbolic victory in the wake of defeat.

On November 3 the participation of a third candidate ensured that neither candidate won 50 per cent of the vote required for victory under Georgia law, and the second senatorial election has attracted rather more energy and national interest than the first, as well as huge advertising campaigns and the involvement of party notables.

With the projected result too close to call, some of Mr Clinton's advisers have questioned the wisdom of participating in a campaign which, if unsuccessful, could mar the otherwise smooth process towards transition.

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia was reportedly instrumental in persuading Mr Clinton to put loyalty above discretion, even though the polls taken by Clinton's staff showed a dangerously close race. Just four weeks ago, during the last Democratic campaign rally in Georgia, it was Senator Fowler who endorsed Mr Clinton; yesterday, at rallies in Macon and Albany, their roles were reversed.

Both sides realise that the key to this election lies in persuading Georgia's voters, like the rest of the nation exhausted by two years of electioneering, to vote again. On November 3, 73 per cent of the state turned out to vote; pollsters say that turnout in today's vote could fall as low as 10 per cent. But defining a "likely voter" in these circumstances is virtually impossible, since this is the first time in American history that a senatorial run-off has immediately followed a presidential election. Mr Fowler's chances of re-election depend on being able to marshal support among the women, the liberals and particularly the black voters who elected him in 1986. "I may be white," he told supporters, "but my soul is black." Mr Coverdell is cultivating the Christian fundamentalist, and predominantly white vote.



Fighting chance: Wyche Fowler, Democratic senator for Georgia for the past five years, faces a close election today in a key test of party support

The race has inevitably been portrayed as a national referendum, with Democrats anxious to keep up their post-election momentum, retain the party's 57-43 advantage in the Senate and avoid a potentially embarrassing defeat, while Republicans are equally keen to prove that the party can

still rally the faithful. Mr Coverdell's success in forcing a run-off with the Democratic incumbent has brought in a flurry of donations from Republicans eager for vengeance, and in the last few days Republican notables have descended on Georgia in force to show support for a candidate once regarded as an outside bet.

Jack Kemp, the housing secretary, told Georgia Republicans (amid placards proclaiming "Kemp in '96") that a victory for Mr Coverdell would help to "redeem" the Republicans after President Bush's defeat. On Friday Mr Bush's wife Barbara, campaigning in Georgia, said: "A lot of people voted for the president-elect, but an awful lot more voted against him" — just one day after she had gracefully embraced Mr Clinton's wife Hillary outside the White House.

Mr Clinton's participation in a campaign that seems anything but certain is seen as a gamble by some Democrats, not just because his presence may galvanise bitter Republicans as much as loyal Democrats, but also because the decision to campaign in such a partisan election cuts across the anti-establishment image Mr Clinton has sought to convey. Last week Al Gore, the vice president-elect, also made several campaign appearances.

Mr Fowler, who has been accused of running a lacklustre first campaign, is now hitting the hustings with remarkable energy and bursts of characteristic wit. "The circus had left," he said recently, bemoaning a run-off he plainly does not relish, "and here was this one chimpanzee still looking around for nuts." He might be forgiven for feeling resentful, having gained 30,000 more votes than his opponent, enough to win most offices in most states other than Georgia.

Senator Fowler's most prominent opponent in the race, after Mr Coverdell, has been Charlton Heston, the actor and staunch Republican activist. Mr Heston appears to have taken his party's defeat personally, and has campaigned hard in Georgia as a sort of latter-day Republican Moses, (his most famous film role), carrying around two stone tablets engraved with what he calls Senator Fowler's "top ten lies". In a radio interview last week Mr Heston described the contest as "the most important election ever" for Georgia.

He said he abolished democratic institutions because they were corruption-ridden, blocking his headline policies to clamp down on Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrillas, considered Latin America's most lethal terrorist group. Jaime Yoshiyama, leader of the Nueva Mayoria-Cambio 90, said that one of his party's main objectives in the new congress would be to instal the death penalty for terrorists. Now the government may attempt to reverse Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman's life sentence, to which he was condemned in a recent trial, and retry him to impose the death penalty.

Peru poll boost for President Fujimori

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

PRESIDENT Fujimori of Peru yesterday hailed the victory of the parties he endorsed in Sunday's congressional elections as a personal triumph. He claimed it was a sign of his government's popularity and support for his promises to wipe out terrorist violence.

Exit polls compiled by independent companies gave the Nueva Mayoria-Cambio 90 party, made up of candidates loyal to the president, a 38.6 per cent majority in the 80-seat congress. Another party sympathetic to the president, the Renovacion party, won 5.5 per cent of the vote.

The official results will be out in the next two days. Although the majority is not as high as government supporters expected, it will give Senator Fujimori control over congress and the power to change the constitution as he wishes.

Senator Fujimori said the results indicated support from Peruvians for his self-initiated coup on April 5, when he abolished the previous parliament and judiciary with the backing of the military, and took on the powers of a dictator. He told journalists: "These elections show that what I did, I did with the backing of the Peruvian people."

He said he abolished democratic institutions because they were corruption-ridden, blocking his headline policies to clamp down on Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrillas, considered Latin America's most lethal terrorist group.

Now the government may attempt to reverse Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman's life sentence, to which he was condemned in a recent trial, and retry him to impose the death penalty.

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Turks talk of intervention in Bosnia to halt fighting

■ Turkey has ethnic, religious and historic links with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sceptical of the results of the London conference, it is ready to play the part of regional peacemaker

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

TURKEY, adding to its already strong calls for military intervention, has organised a one-day conference tomorrow of all Balkan states in Ankara to try to increase pressure for an end to the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Suleyman Demirel, the prime minister, briefed John Major on his plans at the start of a two-day visit to Britain yesterday. He said at a press conference beforehand that he hoped military intervention would not be needed, but Turkey was ready to take part in an international operation to stop the bloodshed.

Britain has strong doubts about the proposed conference, which Whitehall officials said could slow down and cut across efforts made in Geneva by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the European Community and UN negotiators. "It depends on what the conference is supposed to do. We see it as largely irrelevant," one official said.

Mr Demirel said Turkey's concern was humanitarian. "It's not a matter of Islam or Christianity. Blood is blood, no matter whose it is. Something has to be done," he said.

Henry Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State, gave a warning on Sunday that the Bosnian conflict could grow into a "religious war in the heart of Europe". He said Muslim communities in the former Yugoslavia would not accept another ethnic cleansing. "The situation may be getting out of control."

In Belgrade yesterday a top UN official admitted that the much vaunted "no-fly zone" proclaimed by the UN over Bosnia-Herzegovina was daily flouted and said peacekeepers in the region were powerless to stop violations. The admission came as Western navies went into action to enforce a new Security Council resolution to stop sanctions-busting and gun-running along the Adriatic coast. In the first stop-and-search mission, an Ecuadorian vessel bound for Slovenia and a Syrian freighter heading for Croatia were inspected and released.

In Bosnia itself, fierce fighting across the country ended any belief that a 12-day

"ceasefire" was still in force. Cedric Thornberry, the deputy head of the United Nations Protection Force, said in Belgrade that UN military observers in Sarajevo had counted 192 mortar shells falling on the city. Only two shells were fired in return.

In Zagreb, a UN spokesman said humanitarian flights to Sarajevo were suspended because of the fighting there. He said 15 flights got through yesterday, but two were suspended after artillery fire sharply increased.

Mr Thornberry went on to paint one of the blackest pictures yet of the situation in Bosnia and in Serb-held parts of Croatia. He said the UN had detected more than 100 violations of the no-fly zone in the past month. Under the present UN resolution, the protection force had neither the capacity nor the mandate to shoot down violators.

The revelation that the no-fly zone is being widely disregarded will come as a shock to Western policy-makers because of the inevitable demands that violators should be shot down. Many think this would be the first step to full-scale military intervention.

In what may turn out to be another unpleasant surprise, Mr Thornberry said that the UN would be able to determine in the next few days whether or not regular troops of the Croatian army, as opposed to Bosnian Croat soldiers, were operating in Herzegovina. If the UN decides that regular Croatian troops are in action, there will be increasing pressure on the security council to be even-handed and apply sanctions on Croatia to match those on Serbia and Montenegro.

□ Milosevic challenged: The moribund Serbian election campaign will be given a boost today when Jozica Vasiljevic, a private banker and impresario, announces his challenge to Slobodan Milosevic, the president. He said yesterday he would throw his hat into the ring today and gave a warning that, if he did not defeat the "Marxist monarch Milosevic", war would spread across the Balkans and the rest of the world "like fire".



Hands to the pump: nine-year-old Dzana Kafedzic, right, and her sister Selma, 7, carry water through Sarajevo. The civil war has led to a lack of running water in many towns, increasing the risk of disease. Cases of typhoid have been confirmed in Travnik in western Bosnia

Travnik gunmen deterred

FROM REUTERS
IN SARAJEVO

FIGHTING near the central Bosnian town of Travnik eased off after British troops in armoured personnel carriers were deployed around a warehouse containing United Nations relief supplies, Barry Frewer, a UN spokesman, said yesterday.

"We have certainly noticed a great reduction in the level of activity in the area. We trust that our presence has acted as some kind of deterrent," Mr Frewer said. The troops will remain deployed for the foreseeable future. Serb forces have advanced to within a few miles of the town.

In Sarajevo, the city is recovering from the worst shelling since a ceasefire was agreed by the Serbs, Muslims and Croats 12 days ago. All but two of the 194 shells fired on Sunday fell on Bosnian government positions.

The UN-chaired military working group, which brings together the warring factions, was scheduled to discuss the ceasefire and humanitarian aid routes yesterday.

Refugees exchange jail for limbo

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN KARLOVAC, CROATIA, AND CHRIS ELBOU IN ATHENS

HOME for Amir now is a narrow iron bunkbed in a room shared with 40 fellow Muslims, ex-inmates of Serb-run detention camps in Bosnia. The scene is one all too familiar in this blighted corner of eastern Europe: refugees lie back listlessly on their thin mattresses, a thick fog of cigarette smoke hanging in the air.

But in many ways the 1,500 Muslims now living in cramped and chilly conditions in a former army barracks in the Croatian town of Karlovac are the lucky ones. Thousands of their compatriots remain in detention camps, but they are fed and cared for by the Red Cross in the comparative safety of Croatia. They can no longer be taken away to be tortured or killed.

Amir, 35, an engineer from a village near Prijedor, was arrested by Serbs on July 20 and taken to a detention centre. On August 5 he was transferred to Tropolje where he stayed until the beginning of October when he was released to Karlovac. He has been promised a home in Holland, where his family is.

"It's all much too slow and we have been waiting too long. I don't understand why countries like Britain won't take more refugees," he said.

Many of those in Karlovac are deeply traumatised by the atrocities they witnessed. Each has a horrific story to tell of beatings, torture and summary executions. And they are bitter and disillusioned about the failure of the West to offer

them rapid sanctuary. A wave of revisionism swept around the world after television pictures showed bone-thin and terrified prisoners in the Serb camps. But now hundreds of them are stuck in a bureaucratic twilight zone, unable to go home but unable to leave.

"It's easy to say that the refugee problem should be solved in the local area, but these are not parcels, they are living people," said Ali Nordstrom, Karlovac's Red Cross co-ordinator. "Western countries are trying to buy themselves free of their responsibilities, but these people need to get out."

Just over 600 ex-inmates have left Karlovac. About 3,000 across the country have been offered places in the

West, but that number at least are still languishing in the camps because no country has offered to take them. A further 755 have just arrived from Manjaca to take the places of those who have left. Around 500 have been offered transit facilities by the Swiss government. Red Cross officials say they could bring out thousands more if Western countries agreed to take them in.

Croatia, already struggling to feed and house up to a million refugees, has closed its doors until the West takes new displaced people.

The net result is that thousands of terrified Bosnian Muslims still face a winter of fear and hunger because of government lethargy. Many relief officials say privately that

they are disgusted at the slow and piecemeal response of the West to the greatest humanitarian disaster in Europe since the second world war.

There is also anger at the British decision to impose visa requirements on Bosnians when the nearest embassies in Belgrade or Vienna are both unreachable, a move akin to telling Jewish refugees in the second world war to get to the British Embassy in Lisbon to apply for sanctuary.

Most of the Muslim men in Karlovac said they did not even want to remain in the West, and would immediately return and fight if they were given guns. "We are all ready to go back and fight," said Fudat, a motor mechanic in his thirties, who was held in Tropolje for three months. "Twenty-two members of my family have been killed or disappeared. If I had a gun I would go back tomorrow."

□ Macedonia talks: EC special envoy Robin O'Neill said today that a solution was close on the question of the community's recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Mr O'Neill said that after talks with Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, "we are as close to a solution as you can be". Athens and the land-locked republic have been embroiled in a bitter row over the use of the word Macedonia by Skopje, with Greece claiming that it implies territorial designs against its northern province of the same name.



Yeltsin strikes reform deal with the industrial lobby

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW



Gaidar: bargain would foil Congress attack

RUSSIA'S government has reached agreement with the powerful industrial lobby on a programme of reforms, bolstering its position before a crucial parliamentary session, a senior official was quoted as saying yesterday.

Vladimir Shumeiko, the first deputy prime minister, said in the southern city of Krasnodar that the government had completed an anti-crisis programme on Sunday which incorporated proposals of the centre-right Civic Union, Interfax news agency reported.

The *Communist* daily newspaper said an agreement between the two sides envisaged that the Civic Union would use its influence at next month's session of the Congress of People's Deputies, the supreme legislature, to head off attempts to unseat the cabinet. Such an agreement, if implemented, would help President Yeltsin and his reformist acting prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, to win a clash with conservative opponents.

It was unclear what policy changes Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar had agreed to in their reform strategy as the price of winning Civic Union support. The Civic Union claims the support of up to a third of Congress deputies and has been advocating a slower pace of reforms, with more support

for state-owned industry. The *Communist* quoted a document, agreed by experts from both sides and due to be signed by the cabinet and Civic Union leaders, as saying that the government, bowing to the Union's demands, agreed it should play a bigger role in "regulating the formation of market relations". This appeared to contradict the thrust of the "shock therapy" liberalisation adopted by the cabinet a year ago and backed by the West.

The document also stated that inflation was much higher than had been expected. "The results of the first year of reforms give no ground for euphoria," it said.

The Congress, opening on December 1, has been billed as the setting for a decisive battle over the economy between conservative deputies and radical reformers. On the eve of the Congress, there have been sharp political clashes as the two sides have manoeuvred to rally support.

Izvestia reported yesterday that Civic Union members and the hardline opposition to Mr Yeltsin had agreed to work for the removal of four key figures in his entourage, including the liberal foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, and the secretary of state, Gennadi Burbulis, one of the main architects of the political reforms. Mr Yeltsin has not ruled out replacing some ministers, but he has said he will not drop Mr Kozyrev or Mr Burbulis and will not carry out any reshuffle under pressure from the Congress.

Mr Burbulis made clear on Sunday that Mr Yeltsin intended to press for a new constitutional agreement at the session that will confirm his authority as president.

His remarks clearly suggested that Mr Yeltsin did not simply want to weather the storm at the Congress but would seek to clip parliament's wings and strengthen the executive's powers to prevent a time-consuming confrontation every six months.

More cancer deaths feared from thinning ozone layer

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN COPENHAGEN

DAMAGE to the ozone layer will result in five million cases of cancer and 70,000 deaths in the United States alone in the next century, unless the phasing-out of ozone-destroying chemicals is accelerated, William Reilly, head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, said in Copenhagen yesterday.

"Destruction of stratospheric ozone deserves the highest international environmental priority," Mr Reilly told ministers and officials from more than 90 countries gathered in the Danish capital to speed up the timetable of the Montreal protocol, the treaty governing the international elimination of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting substances.

The decision taken by President Bush in February to bring forward America's date for phasing out CFCs from January 1, 2000 to January 1, 1996 meant a potential reduction of one million cancers and 10,000 deaths between now and 2075, Mr Reilly said. Later he revealed that the move would cost the United States an extra \$2 billion (£1.3 billion), giving a figure of \$200,000 for every cancer

death averted. The cost of the original phase-out programme for America has been estimated at \$35 billion. The four-year acceleration chosen by America is being backed by most countries at the meeting.

Thinning of the ozone layer, the earth's protective shield against the harmful effects of the sun's ultraviolet rays, will continue, whatever is decided at the meeting, because many CFCs have long active lifetimes and will go on destroying ozone for decades to come. The peak years for destruction are expected around the turn of the century.

British officials at the meeting said there were no comparable government figures for how many cancers the expected increase in ultraviolet light reaching the earth might cause in the United Kingdom. They said many of the cancers to which Mr Reilly was referring would be non-melanoma cancers which are not usually fatal. David Maclean, the environment minister, said Mr Reilly's figures were "alarmingly high".

"But what is important is that we tighten up controls on CFCs and that is what we

are here to do," Mr Maclean said. Britain has taken the lead in proposing an earlier CFC phase-out date within the European Community.

This February, Greenpeace wrote to all 31,000 general practitioners in Britain offering them a booklet on the health effects of increased ultraviolet light. 4,000 requested it. Ozone depletion over Scotland last January averaged 14.3 per cent below the long-term normal level, according to Rumen Bojkov of the World Meteorological Organisation. For the middle ten days of the month it was 20 per cent below normal. Dr Bojkov said, a figure that would only occur naturally once in 100 years.

□ Tarbes, France: The southwestern Hautes Pyrénées region yesterday registered its highest seasonal temperatures since records started, of 27.6°C (82°F) in the shade.

The previous highest recorded temperature for November was 27.2°C, registered in November 1985, it said. Meteorologists attributed the heat to a long period of sunshine due to warm winds dissipating the fogs that usually cover the area at this season. (AP)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain and Georgia agree to closer ties

London: Britain and Georgia initialled four agreements yesterday on cultural co-operation, the mutual lifting of travel restrictions, investment protection and a declaration of co-operation and consultation between the two countries. They will be formally signed later (Michael Binyon writes).

The agreements are the first between the two countries since Georgia became independent, and were initialled after talks here between Aleksandr Chikvaдзе, the foreign minister, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Britain, which took the lead in Europe in recognising Georgia after Eduard Shevardnadze returned to power, has recently increased the know-how fund that is available to Georgia.

Mr Hurd expressed concern over the fighting in Georgia and especially reports of atrocities committed in the battle between Georgian forces and Abkhazians.

Staff chief dies

Moscow: Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, 49, head of Russia's general staff, has died "after a long illness", the defence ministry said. General Dubynin, a veteran of the Afghan war, had served as commander of Soviet forces in Poland. (Reuters)

Bush funeral

Greenwich, Conn: President Bush, his wife Barbara and their five children were among more than 100 relatives who attended the funeral of Dorothy Walker Bush, 91, the president's mother, who died last week. (AP)

Arms found

Forli: A cache of rocket-launchers, grenades and sub-machineguns probably destined for the Mafia has been unearthed in a wooded area near this town in northeast Italy 30 miles from the Adriatic coast, police said. (Reuters)

Majority won

Vilnius: Lithuania's Democratic Labour party, the former Communist party, won 73 out of 141 parliamentary seats in last week's election, according to the official results. Sajudis, which led the country to independence, won 30 seats. (AP)

Sailors' legacy

Manila: President Ramos has pledged to support the illegitimate children of US servicemen after the closure of the naval base at Subic Bay, but has asked for help from Washington. The sailors will leave behind them at least 23,000 Amerasians. (Reuters)

Capsule lands

Seattle: A Russian space capsule splashed down off the coast of Washington carrying a payload of peace messages, religious icons and requests for business investment in Russia. The friendship flight marked the international Year of Space. (AP)

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Common links with royals

Royalty matters immensely to large numbers of people, but it is not at all obvious why this should be so. What is it in human nature which seems to demand that some people be singled out as magically significant even though their contributions to civilisation and human welfare are no more than fund-raising?

We all pay tribute to those men and women who have scaled the heights: the great writers, painters, musicians, scientists, mathematicians and inventors who have enriched human existence, enhanced our quality of life, widened our understanding of the world and enlarged our perception of human capabilities. Even a few politicians are worthy of some respect.

But the members of our royal family are unremarkable. The Prince of Wales is reasonably well educated, but I can't think of any member of the royal family with whom I would choose to pass an evening. Those who idealise royalty do not do so because of the royals' gifts or achievements.

Enormous wealth is always intriguing. Many people like to imagine what it would be like to own several huge man-



DR ANTHONY STORR

flaws of character. Today, it is true that we demand better behaviour from our royal family and it is a matter for sympathy that emotional problems which would escape notice or be taken for granted in an ordinary family become the subject of so much attention when they occur in the House of Windsor.

It is because the royal family seems rather ordinary that it appeals to so many people. If the royals were all Nobel prize winners, most people would be unable to identify with them. If one is not particularly gifted, the kind of intellectual achievement which leads to a

The soap opera of royalty fascinates because it shows that ordinary people can attract devotion

Nobel prize in physics seems incomprehensible.

But the ups and downs of family life are familiar to us all. It is a sad reflection on our educational system that so few people are interested in ideas or in the arts. If the life of the mind is a closed book, what is left to make life interesting? The answer is the vagaries of the neighbours.

For many people, life consists of a series of soap operas, some on television, some in real life. The royal soap opera, which sells so many newspapers, fascinates readers because it shows that boring, ordinary people like you, me and the neighbours can yet attract devotion. Royalty is the apotheosis of the commonplace.

Human beings, like many social animals, are hierarchical creatures. We are bound to put some of our number at the top of the tree and to regard such people with a measure of special respect or even awe. But to make such eminence derive from an accident of birth rather than from any excellence of personality or achievement is to perpetuate the class structure and snobbery which other nations find so distasteful in British life.

There is something to be said for having a head of state who can carry out ceremonial functions and represent Britain without necessarily doing anything to deserve it. Edward VII remained popular and respected in spite of his greed and lechery. Edward VIII continued to attract sympathy even after his abdication in spite of his obvious

Bring back the age of reason

The consequences of irrational behaviour can be disastrous.

Liz Gill meets a professor who wants us to see sense

Suppose you buy a theatre ticket for a play that turns out to be so excruciatingly bad you would gladly have paid money not to be there. Do you stick with it to the final curtain? Stuart Sutherland, professor of psychology at Sussex University, frequently does, but at least he knows he is behaving irrationally. The rest of us, it seems, somehow think we are getting our money's worth.

"The sensible thing of course is to leave," he says. "That way you only suffer the monetary loss. Instead, of the double blow of an hour or two's needless boredom as well. The mistake arises because people fail to realise that all that matters is their future gains and losses: they should ignore the past except in so far as one can learn from it."

Misplaced consistency — the phenomenon whereby people who have made a sacrifice of money, time or



Professor Sutherland: happier

effort in order to do something tend to go on doing it even when they stand to lose more than they gain — matters little when it only involves an evening's entertainment. It is important decision-makers who Professor Sutherland hopes to reach with his new book, *Irrationality: The Enemy Within*, though he would like theatre-goers to benefit, too.

"Most of the decisions we make are pretty low-level, otherwise we wouldn't have survived," he says. "There has been a lack of evolutionary pressure to increase rationality: you don't need much to find food and shelter and raise a family."

But when a general, for example, applies misplaced consistency to war strategy, the results can be horrific.

"In the first world war it became apparent, if only from the battle of Verdun, where 800,000 lives were lost, that in trench warfare direct attacks were not only doomed to failure but would cost the attackers far more than the defenders," Professor Sutherland says. "Yet in the battle of the Somme, despite losing 57,000 men in the first few hours, General Haig continued to attack well-defended German positions with further appalling losses."

"But I think we'd all be happier if we were more rational. We might not get drunk and have hangovers so much, we might buy better cars and houses for less money, we might not even rush into disastrous marriages. But the really bad effects of irrationality occur mainly when major decisions are being taken by people such as doctors, judges, engineers, managers and politicians."

Rational thinking, according to Professor Sutherland's definition, is whatever is most likely to be correct given the knowledge one has: rational action the one most likely to achieve the desired end. Irrationality, therefore, is coming to conclusions that cannot be justified by one's current knowledge. "Any thought process that leads to a conclusion or a decision that is not the best that could have been reached in the light of the evidence, given the time constraints that apply, is irrational," he says.

His book covers more than a hundred different causes in three main groups: social, emotional and cognitive. Among the latter he would include the "availability error", or judging by the first thing that comes to mind, which is in turn often the most dramatic. This, for instance, is the sort of thinking that stops Americans coming to Europe after a hijacking when in fact they are more



Double vision: an irrational outlook, as in Magritte's surrealist painting *Not to be Reproduced*, may involve failing to assess risks correctly

'For every good idea there will be 20 bad ones, and it is rationality that sorts and organises them'

this the officers concluded they should blame but never praise.

"What they were unaware of was the principle of 'regression to the mean', which affects all events in which chance plays a role. In this case, exceptionally good flying and exceptionally bad flying are both rare. An average performance is more usual and therefore more likely on the next flight," he explains.

The reluctance to relinquish one's views, he says, permeates all walks of life. It means people fail to seek contradictory evidence to test a belief: ignore it if it does appear, or even deliberately distort it.

Irrationality can be collective as well as individual. "The Cold war was almost certainly irrational, because the Soviets misread the Americans, who were not really about to drop bombs on them, and the Soviets failed to see the Russian build-up as a response to that imagined threat," Professor Sutherland says.

"Many organisations fail to achieve their goals because they are structured in ways that encourage selfish behaviour in their members. That selfishness, however inhumane, is not irrational, but the organisation as a whole functions irrationally in the sense that it fails to use the best means to achieve its ends."

Professor Sutherland, who now

teaches a course on rationality at the university, believes education is the solution to cognitive problems. "You need some elementary statistics, some familiarity with concepts like probability theory, and you need to teach it with examples relevant to real life."

"When we're making complex decisions, we can only hold five or six things in our mind at one time. But a simple supplement to that is to use a pencil and paper to set out the pros and cons and the relevant factors."

Men and women can be taught to deal with stress, another major cause of irrationality, and to recognise when and how emotions — in themselves neither rational nor irrational — are affecting their thinking processes.

More difficult to tackle, the professor believes, are the social causes of obedience and conformity, both of the attitudes of a particular group and to society as a whole. These may produce examples of irrational behaviour ranging from being too embarrassed to ask for a train window to be opened on a hot day to the excesses of football hooliganism.

"It might make sense to go along with the actions of a group for self-preservation, but it can never be a benefit to come to false beliefs on the basis of what a group does," he says. "Yet it has been shown that pressure

can change the way people actually think, not just the way they act."

Rationality, Professor Sutherland argues, is not necessarily the enemy of either spontaneity or creativity. "For every good idea there will be 20 bad ones, and it is rationality that sorts and organises them. If you develop the habit of rationality you can still be spontaneous as well."

Some individuals are more rational than others because of a combination of genes, upbringing, and education, but part of the problem, he says, is that we all think we are more rational than we really are. "This blinkers us. Unless you can see the possibility of mistakes you will not think hard enough to avoid them."

Professor Sutherland has personal experience of a loss of reason. He suffered from manic depression for ten years and wrote of his struggle in *Breakdown*, a book which formed the basis of Simon Gray's play *Melon* in 1987. "Not stopping to think is the basis of a lot of irrationality. I was always extremely impulsive and became more so during my illness," he says. "In my manic phases, for instance, I'd do anything for a joke, even if it meant offending a person I liked."

His condition has been stabilised by medication for several years and writing the book has made him strive even harder towards rationality. But he still sits through bad plays. "And I'm still irrational about something like misplacing my wallet. I go berserk and keep looking again and again in the same place."

● *Irrationality: The Enemy Within* is published this week by Constable at £14.95.

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ARE EPIDURALS, the spinal injections used on more than 10,000 women in Britain every year to relieve labour pains, a potential hazard?

Fresh research indicates that babies whose mothers have epidurals may be at risk of heatstroke, particularly where temperatures in labour rooms are often kept high.

Doctors argue that epidurals are effective and, in comparison with general anaesthetics, allow a woman to remain conscious during the birth. Bupivacaine, the most common drug used in injections, does not harm the baby because it does not cross the placenta, they say.

Supporters of natural childbirth believe that any drug carries a risk and point to various anecdotal evidence

indicating drawbacks, including the chance of having a less alert child.

A link between health problems, such as backache and frequent headaches, and epidurals was found in a study of more than 11,000 first-time mothers by researchers at Birmingham University's medical school. In some cases the symptoms lasted nine years after the birth.

Dr Christine MacArthur, one of the researchers whose findings, *Health after Childbirth*, were published by the HMSO last year, says: "We knew new mothers suffered certain problems, but not to

Turning down the heat

The question over the long-term effects of epidurals continues

the extent this research shows. Now we have found... a strong link between backaches and headaches and the use of epidural anaesthesia."

In May this year a further study of 4,500 women given epidurals found more than 60 per cent suffered side-effects, including tingling in hands and fingers, fainting and numbness. The side-

effects lasted for up to a year, the report in the *British Medical Journal* said.

The latest study, involving 57 pregnant women, has been made by a team at the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School in London.

The pain relief offered by epidurals may lead to high temperatures in the womb because mothers retain more

heat by sweating and breathing less, the team say.

Researchers directly measured the skin temperatures of the fetuses using sensors. Some mothers used epidurals and others used alternatives such as nitrous oxide gas. About 5 per cent of the babies whose mothers were given epidurals had temperatures of 39C or more, indicating that their core temperatures may have gone above 40C.

In adults the risks of heatstroke, which can include brain impairment, convulsions and heart failure, rise alarmingly over 40C. The risk of high fetal temperatures increased with the

length of time an epidural was used.

The researchers are suggesting that measures be taken to lower labour room temperatures after five hours or more.

John Macaulay, a member of the team whose findings are published in the latest *Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, said they were not suggesting that epidurals should be avoided and emphasised that all of the babies born appeared hale and hearty. "At the moment they are sold as the best thing since sliced bread," he says. "It is really a matter of producing a few cautionary tales so we do not lose sight of the fact that every medical procedure has a downside."

NICK NUTTALL

When V
German
draw
the line

Time is of
essence

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The greatest challenge to Bonn comes not from the outright neo-Nazis but from the astute politicians on the far right, Peter Millar writes

When will Germany draw the line?

A cold wind blows across Dresden's main square, the Altmarkt, funnelled through the drab tower block hotels that stand like empty cigarette packets along the soulless pedestrian precinct laid out by the communists after Bomber Harris and his boys blew away the city's baroque heart.

Here and there a motley group of youths races to smoke and mooch about. They could be in a depressed economy anywhere. Their only uniform is that of universal youth in the 1990s: the boys in blue jeans, the few girls in leggings, the legs of both sexes ending in ugly, heavy black boots. The young men are not skinheads; their haircuts are more like those of lopsided Victorian bank clerks, razored close up back and sides with a thick mop on top. The only special characteristic marking them out is the circular cloth patch, sewn on to jeans or denim jackets, with its black eagle and the legend "Proud to be a German".

This is the front-line of the far-right fringe of German politics. These teenagers represent the submerged lower half of the iceberg which has sunk Germany's reputation, rehabilitated over 40 years of studied application to democracy in the west.

Almost exactly two years ago, in November 1990, only one month after German unification, the small, eastern German town of Eisenhüttenstadt was the scene of a murder which still weighs on the national conscience: an Angolan immigrant worker was beaten to death in the street. Instead of pointing the finger at his killers, the townspeople closed ranks. It was not until September this year that a successful prosecution was brought. But that attack was only the beginning.

In the past two years there is scarcely a corner of the old communist state that has not seen an explosion of racial hatred directed at immigrants from Africa, Asia or the poorer parts of eastern Europe. Hoyerswerda, Rostock, Eisenhüttenstadt, Quedlinburg, picturesque country towns and unlovely industrial settlements alike, have erupted in violence that foreign commentators have quickly compared with the anti-Jewish pogroms of the 1930s. To the all-too-evident discomfiture of the politicians in Bonn, their counterparts in the east, newly liberated from one totalitarianism, have abused that freedom to adopt the trappings of another: the stiff arm salutes, the swastika tattoos and the cries of "Sieg Heil" in the streets are the automatic first focus for foreign cameramen.

But the hatred is real. On the streets of Rostock, on the warm nights of last August the rioting crowds had their quota of punks, skinheads and other Chaotiker who had come in buses from Berlin on the offchance of a battle with police. But they mingled with the tough determined faces of the local working class, factory workers thrown on the dole like so much overmature in the building of the new Germany, expressing their anger with sticks and stones.

The reality of the renaissance of Germany's extreme right is more complicated than the simple "neo-Nazi" tag suggests. In Dresden's Altmarkt, Hans, one of the more articulate of this little chump of right-wingers, tried to explain: "We are no Nazis. We are simply patriotic Germans, but we do not want our cities taken over by blacks and foreigners." Yet a few weeks ago a group of Hans's colleagues, marched through the Altmarkt and raised their hands in Nazi salutes. Gisela Hase, a housewife in her 60s, was shocked not so much by the young — "they are fools who do not remember the Nazi years, the war" — but by the older people who stood and applauded.

When the Queen visited Dresden last month these youths were on this square. Two of their number threw eggs, but no one is saying who. They are not even sure why. The ostensible reason was retaliation for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother unveiling a statue of Bomber Harris in London. But there is no real lust for revenge; they do not hate the English here. They hate *Ausländer*, and the word for "foreigner" in the modern German sense has many gradations.

Theoretically, because of the European Community's regulations on common rights to live and work in any member country, *Ausländer* is often used as a shorthand term for non-EC citizens. But even in the most liberal social circles, there is a racial overtones; for example, Austrians and Swiss, while not EC-citizens, are not considered *Ausländer*, while Greeks might well be, and even southern Italians and Portuguese are on a border line which has more to do with Europe's ancient north-south divide, now that the artificial east-west line of the Cold War has been wiped away.

The real *Ausländer* are those who look different, the Africans and Asians, the Roman gypsies, the Turks and the Vietnamese. For east German society today the best comparison is with a patient emerging from 40 years in the closed regime of a labour camp to find his home, so fondly remembered, has



Magnet to cameramen: neo-Nazis in Dresden last month. The hatred displayed is severely damaging Germany's reputation

been sublet to strangers.

The rise of the right is a national phenomenon, as illustrated by last spring's local elections in which the two legal extreme right-wing parties — the Republicans and the German People's Union — jumped over the 5-per-cent hurdle to win seats in, respectively, both Baden-Württemberg in the southwest and Schleswig-Holstein in the north. There are now no further elections until 1994 but the far right plans to put up candidates then across the entire country and only an intensification of the arguments between the factions may prevent it from making a radical alteration to the political landscape.

For the greatest dilemma facing Germany is not the threat from the outright neo-Nazis so beloved by the British tabloids, but the task of drawing that line where the respectable right merges into the unconscionable. In the tiny youth clubs in the suburbs of the eastern German cities, there is no doubt about who is on the wrong side of the line. In Gorbitz, in the suburbs of Dresden, these sour-faced boys can be seen any evening at local bars, drinking too much and willing to scream "Sieg Heil" at any photographer for the price of a beer. And there are their would-be leaders, half-baked phony intellectuals who describe themselves as "National Socialists". They sense a historical opportunity for a "new beginning" in the ashes of communism.

Only three years ago the youth clubs where these amateur Nazis drink were adorned with plaques of Lenin as local headquarters of the Free Ger-

man Youth, the blue-shirted "advance guard of the party", which was to the communist elite what the Hitler Youth was to the Führer. It is tempting to see the children of one totalitarian regime seduced by nostalgia for another.

But that is a simplification of the truth. Ramona, a 16-year-old schoolgirl from Rostock, in a recent interview with *Stern* magazine produced, almost in the same breath, two statements which showed a fawed but "politically correct" view of history, cobalating with a cynical intolerance: "Hitler was a real pig. He put Jews in an oven and turned on the gas," then she added: "If one [an immigrant] croaks, no one gives a shit." Her friend Ralf, a mere 14, was out on the streets in the August rioting during which dozens were injured and an immigrant's hostel burnt out by petrol bombs. He was not worried what his parents might think he had met his father among the rioters.

At the root of every complaint about the immigrants lies the gut belief that the obviously alien faces in the streets of these towns belong to freeloaders come to usurp the birthright of affluence that east Germans feel cheated of twice over: once, by 40 years of communist dictatorship, and once again by the failure of unification to provide overnight living standards equal to the west. In east Germany, ravaged by the rationalisation of Treuband, the state privatisation boom in the west, as its industries are up what was worth having in the east and enjoyed the expanded market has deflated as that market runs out of money.

For the country as a whole, the influx of perhaps half a million refugees this year alone is proving a psychological and economic strain that is threatening the fragile consensus politics that made West Germany among the most stable European democracies

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Turks recoil at deaths

German police are braced for acts of revenge by members of the country's large Turkish community in the wake of the killings of two Turkish women and a ten-year-old girl by suspected neo-Nazi terrorists in a northern German village early yesterday. The killings in the village of Mölln, (pop. 16,000) were the culmination of one of Germany's bloodiest weekends of violence against non-Germans for months.

Turkish officials in Berlin, home to 140,000 ethnic Turks, planned to hold, together with leftist political parties, a silent march in the city centre yesterday evening to show, as one organiser put it, "our fear of the Nazi mob and disgust with the government" over the murders.

The three victims, aged 51, 14 and ten, and all related, were murdered in their sleep in two fires which took place at in their two multi-family homes. All three had lived in Germany for many years and the young girl was born there. One woman among the nine injured broke both her legs jumping from an upper floor to the street below, and a nine-month-old infant suffered from smoke inhalation.

The interior minister for the state of Schleswig-Holstein reported that members of the ethnic Turkish community in Mölln, described as well-integrated citizens, had been increasingly disturbed at threats received from right-wing extremists in the days before these attacks.

Several anonymous callers to the authorities later claimed responsibility for the killings, ending their calls with the words "Heil Hitler" and promising that their campaign of terror and violence against the Turkish community had only just begun. Police do not know if the callers were genuine, or simply showing solidarity with the attackers.

Meanwhile the German federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe took over control of the case from local authorities and imposed a blackout on official information, as a widespread manhunt began.

Berlin is still recovering after a weekend of violence which included the fatal stabbing of one German man and the wounding of two companions in a deserted underground station in eastern Berlin. The assailants escaped, while the sole eyewitness injury described the killer as a man with short blonde hair and a jacket patch that read: "I am proud to be a German".

JOHN HOLLAND

The influx of half a million refugees is proving a psychological and economic strain that is threatening the fragile consensus politics that made West Germany among the most stable European democracies

unification boom in the west, as its industries are up what was worth having in the east and enjoyed the expanded market has deflated as that market runs out of money.

For the country as a whole, the influx of perhaps half a million refugees this year alone is proving a psychological and economic strain that is threatening the fragile consensus politics that made West Germany among the most stable European democracies

Devilish hard to pin down

FRANZ SCHÖNHUBER, the 69-year-old founder and chairman of the extreme right Republican party in Germany, is at great pains to portray himself as a moderate man. As a journalist for 40 years — he was once a presenter on Bavarian television — he knows very well what the international press wants to hear from a German right-winger and former NCO in the Waffen SS, and he is determined not to let them hear it.

Herr Schönhuber is accused by the great majority of Germany's democratic politicians and the media of sharing in responsibility for the growth of chauvinism and hence for racist attacks; but his response yesterday to the killings in Mölln was apparently clear: "We denounce all violence. The people responsible should be put behind bars and kept there."

He distances himself emphatically from the neo-Nazis, describing anti-Semitic insults as "disgusting", pointing out that his first wife was half-Jewish. He stresses strict limits on asylum and no further immigration, but guarantees the position of *Gastarbeiter* (guest workers) living in Germany: "We invited them to come and work here. Even if that was a mistake, we cannot now expel them. How can a Turkish youth who has lived all his life in Germany be sent back to live in Turkey?"

In Republican propaganda and speeches, as reported by his own party newspaper, *Der Republikaner*, remarks from Herr Schönhuber denouncing immigrants collectively as criminals — "Italian mafia, Polish car-thieves, fences and smugglers, Yugoslav pimps, Turkish drug-dealers and youth gangs, Arab terrorists" — are frequent. But many of his statements to the press are hardly more radical than those from right-wingers



Schönhuber: respectable allies

within Chancellor Kohl's ruling coalition. In conservative Bavaria, the Christian Social Union (CSU), the sister party of Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats, has in some of its rhetoric moved further to the right than Herr Schönhuber. The CSU is desperately afraid of the electoral threat from the Republicans, whom some opinion polls show as gaining 25 per cent of the vote in Bavaria.

Herr Schönhuber denounces moves in Bavaria and other Länder to place the Republicans under supervision by the state anti-subversion agency (Verfassungsschutz). He claims that, "The Verfassungsschutz in North-Rhine Westphalia revealed that they had no evidence of links between us and the neo-Nazis... These attempts to keep a party down can only be compared to the tactics of the East German regime and the Stasi."

He asks: "How can we be called an anti-constitutional party when our ranks are full of civil servants, policemen and judges, all of whom have sworn allegiance to the constitution?" He particularly welcomes the growth of Republican support in the armed forces. Sitting beside him was Lt Col (retired) Udo Bösch, formerly a West German intelligence officer, now the head of administration of the Republican organisation.

THE Republican programme is suffused with demands that Germany must regain its pride, that any German collective guilt for Nazism must be rejected. Herr Schönhuber recognises Nazi crimes, but says that the Waffen SS were "an elite military unit misused for political ends". He says that though he has denounced Nazism, he cannot be expected to denounce "the men beside whom I fought for three years".

In his time, Herr Schönhuber has moved from the Social Democrats, whom he liked for their social programmes as well as their anti-Americanism, through the CSU — from which he was expelled when *Ich war Dabei* (I was there), his controversial autobiographical account of his Waffen SS years, appeared — to his present exposed position.

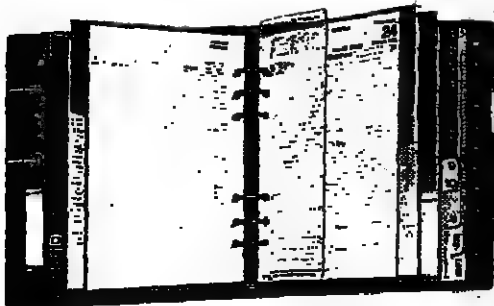
In the beer-halls, Herr Schönhuber can be a rabble-rouser, but before the television cameras, he is a soft-spoken, well-mannered man in a suit. All of this makes him an infernally hard for the established German parties to deal with — the more so when they are adopting parts of his programme. Their best hope is that enough of his supporters will get drunk and say in public what they really think.

ANATOL LIEVEN

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مكتبة الأصل



Lynne Truss

■ Thank goodness the castle was not insured, or our premiums would go through the roof

I sometimes think I imagined it, because nobody else seems to remember. Yet I am convinced that many years ago, when the world was new, there was a black-and-white advertisement on television in which a crudely drawn cartoon family took refuge inside an insurance document. It made a great impression on me at the time, perhaps because of the rather natty manner in which the said policy came flying out of the daddy's hands and then hurried itself magically into a castellated stronghold, not unlike the Brunswick Tower at Windsor Castle. "Strong stuff this insurance," said clever daddy, bending over the battlements and rapping twice (knock knock) on the mock-Norman edifice. It looked marvellous, honestly, especially through the eyes of a six-year-old. "Get the strength of the insurance companies around you" said the voice-over at the end. And I vowed on the spot that I always would.

So the news on Friday that Windsor Castle was not insured came initially as a bit of a shock. When disasters strike our friends it is the first question we ask: "Were they insured? Oh, thank heavens for that." Only imprecise people, we think, fail to clamber inside the policy castle and pull up the drawbridge. In fact now that it is commonplace to insure your property, life, trips abroad, credit cards and health (not to mention the continued mechanical goodwill of your washing machine), most people could probably build real walls out of their insurance stuff, thick enough to knock on.

So should Windsor Castle have been insured? Well, there are obvious reasons why it was not. But nobody should be under the illusion that a valid home protector policy for St George's Hall would have removed the tricky problem of who will pay up. The famous estimated tens of millions would simply have been stamped on our washing machine premiums, just like that. We have had a narrow escape then. I keep having visions of this archetypal man from the Pru patiently calling at Windsor like clockwork, first of every month, year after year. "Did you find a moment to glance at the literature?" he shouts through the bolted door, only to be ritually rebuffed when the sharp end of a polo mallet is shoved through the letterbox, jabbing him in the abdomen. "Go away," he hears from inside, "push off." But thank goodness he never got in.

We have already reached the stage of insuring our insurance, or so it seems to me. But soon I expect they will exploit our hydra-headed fears by offering insurance against huge leaps in premium charges, brought about by massive one-off claims such as Windsor Castle. It is an obvious step. Last week I stood open-mouthed and gesticulating in an AA shop when, having reluctantly succumbed to the ultimate guard-us-against-all-evil (an emergency phone for the car), I was asked whether I wanted to pay extra for a three-year extended warranty. What? I said. Warranty? Were they implying that this phone might not work? "I am buying this as insurance!" I protested. "Must I thus take out insurance on my insurance?" But my appeal made no impact on the AA woman, who merely explained for the third time that the warranty was an optional extra.

I was confusing insurance with protection, I suppose. This is understandable when you remember that I have spent my entire adult life envisaging insurance policies as Norman keeps (knock knock), but it is also an easy mistake for anyone to fall into when words such as "cover" and "security" are regularly spotted in the vicinity. Insurance is just a crude, perverse form of gambling: basically, you stand on the kerb of life and bet good money that you won't make it across the road. And then, if somebody else gets knocked down by a bus, you pay extra on the way back. And that's it. So the symbolism of the Brunswick Tower burning like a torch against the night sky had an additional dimension for me, I must admit. I kept expecting to see that clever old daddy appear on the flaming battlements, saying: "Strong stuff this (cough cough). Eh? What's that? What do you mean it's not insured?"

Throughout northern Europe opposition to Maastricht is still growing, writes Nicholas Ridley

A corpse at Edinburgh

When one considers what has happened to the Treaty of Maastricht over the last six months, it seems incredible that European leaders seem still determined to press on with it in Edinburgh next month.

The Danish rejection of the treaty in their referendum legally killed it; it needs unanimous ratification. Instead of accepting this, or waiting for a second and favourable referendum, EC leaders decided that they would all ratify, and put pressure on the Danes by threatening to proceed without them. This was bullying, and obviously legal. They also vowed not to renegotiate any part of the treaty.

The Danes have now come up with a list of four major items which they want negotiated, and they insist furthermore that they should be legally binding. If ever there had to be a total renegotiation, this is it, because the four items amount to Denmark opting out of the heart of the treaty. EC leaders blindingly say that they will consider doing this by adding "protocols" — although Jacques Delors has said that Denmark's requests are unacceptable.

So what answer is the Com-

munity going to give to the Danish demands, and when do we get it? More important, will the answer persuade the Danes to vote yes on the next occasion? The prospects look bleak to me. But surely we need the answers before we proceed?

The Danes are not the only ones who want to renegotiate the treaty. The Germans do too. It is ironic and irritating that Chancellor Kohl has been strongest in his refusal to contemplate any renegotiation, yet his own parliament has demanded, and been granted by his government, the "right" to opt out of the single currency, in order to preserve the Deutschmark unscathed by lesser currencies. There was no talk of renegotiation, or seeking the agreement of the other 11, just a decision to opt out.

So Germany, Britain and Denmark all want the right to opt out of the single currency, and will presumably do so. But they are three of the member states who will have to pay for

the single currency, through the structural funds and the so-called "cohesion fund". Between them, they would be paying the lion's share of large expenditure for the benefit of Greece, Ireland, Spain, Italy and Portugal. It is the prospect of all this money which makes those poorer member states so keen on Maastricht. Soon they will wake up to the fact that the future payers are melting away. Will they still be so keen then?

Over the summer public opinion, throughout northern Europe at least, has hardened visibly against the treaty. Following the Danish rejection, public opinion polls in Britain and Germany have shown consistent and large majorities against the treaty. In France the referendum result was a knife-edge 50.7 per cent in favour. Ireland voted yes more decisively, but Ireland is a major beneficiary of Community funds. It is impossible to interpret all this in any other way than as a majority in the

northern states against the treaty. Yet this is simply to be ignored and brushed aside on the spurious argument that the people do not understand the treaty. Surely it should have their full-hearted consent?

Our own experience highlights the point. We are denied a referendum on the grounds that we traditionally take all decisions through our system of parliamentary democracy. It is perhaps no coincidence that we know the treaty would be decisively rejected if there were to be a referendum. Yet our parliamentary democracy has been corrupted and beset by the nastiest whipping ever heard of. Tory MPs were threatened with deliberately ruined careers, with the revelation of their extra-marital affairs, and denial of all assignments they might want. Pressure was put upon them in their constituencies and through their wives. Even then the second vote on

November 4 was going to be lost — democracy was about to give its true verdict. John Major then stooped so low as to make a major concession in private to three MPs, which persuaded them at the last moment to vote for the government.

One of those three MPs confirmed in a letter to the *Sunday Telegraph* that Mr Major agreed to delay completion of the bill until the Danes had voted "yes" in a second referendum. Later, it emerged that the Danes might well not hold such a referendum until next September. We do not know what concessions the Danes will win nor whether they will vote yes in their second referendum. What, therefore, is the point of proceeding with the bill at all before then?

Those who oppose Maastricht are accused of being anti-European, and wanting to leave the Community. This is not so: it is a choice between the centralised Maastricht concept for Europe, or constructing a

real open market for the whole of Europe. Mr Major says Maastricht is a step away from centralisation. Commissioner Martin Bangemann says it is a "milestone on the road to a federal Europe". Henry Bangemann is right of course, but why does the prime minister try to mislead us?

He also says that if the Community improves its definition of "subsidiarity" it will help us, and the Danes, to understand the advantages of the treaty. Alas, even if it proved possible to agree on a legal definition of that word, it would only underline the importance of the policy areas from which the governments of member states will be excluded.

For Europe's leaders to press on with this treaty, basing their case on invalid arguments which have not persuaded the people of Europe, is unacceptable and a recipe for future disaster. At the Edinburgh summit, John Major must use his presidency to insist on a new and better way forward for the Community.

Lord Ridley was Conservative MP for Chichester and Tewkesbury 1959-92.

The terrible fire raises questions about the royal family that can no longer be fudged, says Janet Daley

There is always something apocalyptic about a great fire. Perhaps it was inevitable then that the conflagration at Windsor would give rise to hyperbole of mythical proportions. There are those who will see it as *Götterdämmerung* — a judgment on the apparently lapsed morals of the royals or indeed on the prudent voyeurism of the nation of which the royals have become a symbol. Others seem to be taking it as a supernatural contribution to restoring the popularity of the monarchy. In this vein, the heritage secretary, Mr Peter Brooke, standing before the smoking ruins, implied that the most appropriate response to this disaster was personal sympathy for the Queen whose "own home" had been ravaged.

While no one would wish to be hard-hearted about the distress which the royal family must feel, it seems peculiarly absurd to liken the monarch to a suburban matron who has returned home to find the roof over her head gone and her favourite possessions destroyed. One more example perhaps of the strange mix of feudal fealty and middle-class ordinariness which the royal image now encompasses. What has been lost belongs to us all, surely. Or does it? If ever there was a moment to decide, this is surely it. For the consequences of coming down on one side or the other of that question will be reckoned not only in taxpayers' money but in the terms on which we will relate to the throne for the next generation.

Mr Brooke's reaction and his immediate offer, on our behalf, to pay all the expenses of restoration, strike a peculiarly jarring note. Not only does his courtly devotion seem oddly anachronistic in a year in which royal behaviour has become inescapably modern, but he seems also to see no scope for dispute about the role which public money plays in the lives of the royals. To assume that there is nothing contentious, or even ambiguous, about any of these matters looks, in this of all years, slightly bizarre.

Now that the pillars of flame have subsided at the castle itself,

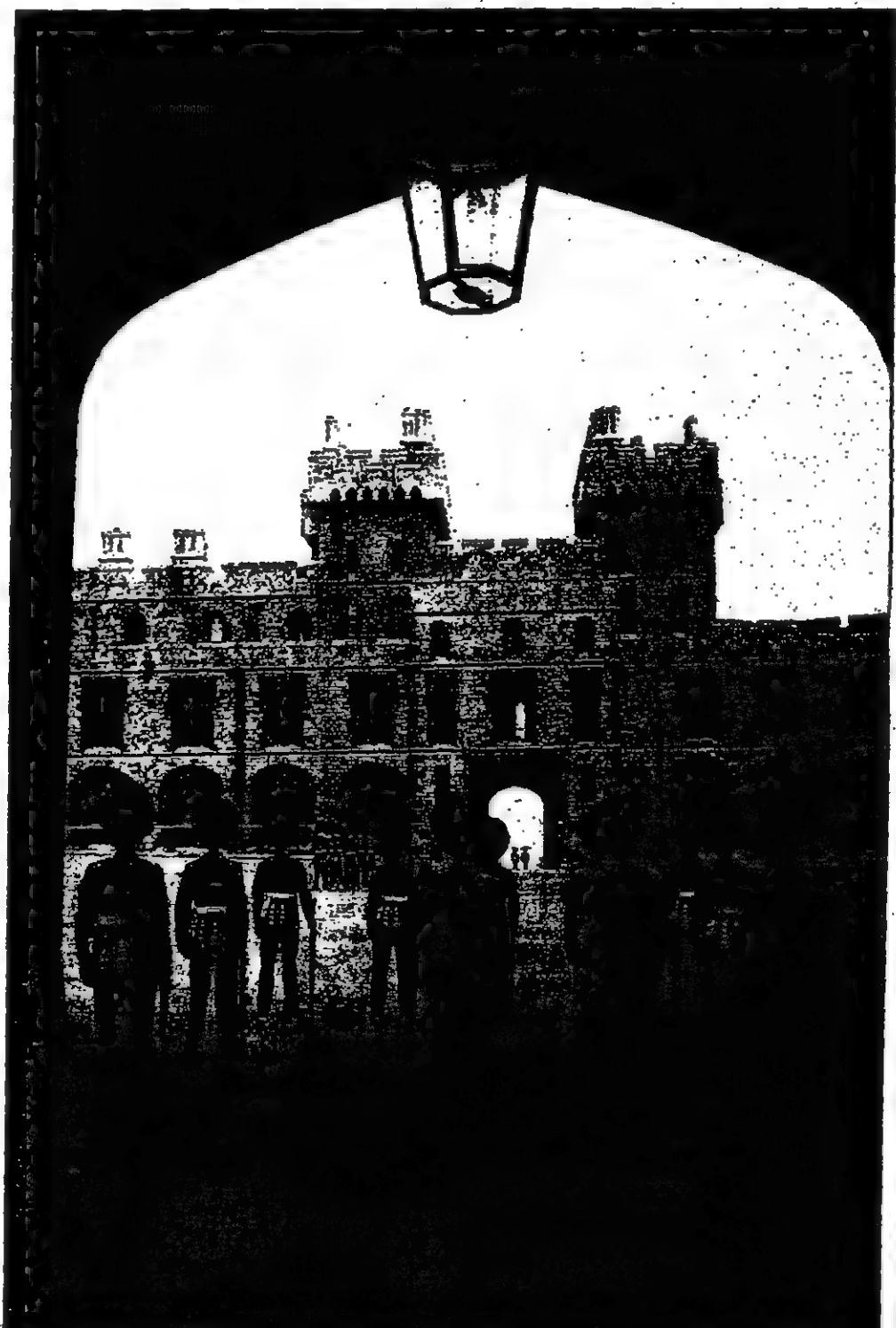
perhaps the more far-fetched metaphors and incongruous sentiment can die down as well. For the fire at Windsor is likely to invigorate serious debate about the monarchy rather than suppress it, not for the wilder reasons which involve possible divine judgments, but because the catastrophe will bring to a head questions which can no longer be fudged.

Mr Brooke's remarks embody the very contradiction which has provoked so much recent controversy over the role of the monarchy. Is the royal family composed of ordinary people who carry out constitutional services to the nation but whose lives, property and finances are no one's business but their own? Or do they somehow embody the historical continuity of the country — in which case their private behaviour and the seriousness of their commitment to that venerable responsibility is a legitimate matter of public concern. Are they private individuals doing a job for which they are paid by the state? Or are they public property, an institution in human form, history made flesh?

A perfectly feasible interpretation is that the royals have functions which are largely ceremonial — like Black Rod on a more elaborate scale — for which they are provided with a tax-free allowance. But this nominal role as head of state is a less significant, and less magical, one than most monarchists would recognise.

It is the grander vision in which, by a considerable stretching of imagination and historical veracity, the present holder of the throne is seen to descend from the ancient crowned heads of England which bedevils us. It is the baffling metaphysics of their dual identity as individuals and as vessels of our history which gives rise to our problems over this catastrophic accident and perhaps to their problems in conducting their lives.

In the confusion over the private and public dimensions of their existence there is much room for political discontent. The suspicion that the royals are having it both ways does not



Private or public? A royal home only becomes public property when there are bills to be paid

help the cause of those who would support them. For the Queen to pay no taxes on her private wealth implies that she is not an ordinary citizen. But the fact that her accounts are now to be free from parliamentary scrutiny suggests that her expenditure is a private matter: that the monarch is not accountable in

the way generally thought proper for public figures in a democracy.

The fire has brought another example of this paradox to the fore. Buckingham Palace press spokesmen are standing by the statement quoted in the press on Sunday, that they had refused access to English Heritage

when it repeatedly requested permission to survey the areas of the castle being rewired and renovated. In a remarkably forthright statement, the palace is reported to have said, "Why should they [English Heritage] think they have access? The building's fabric and what the buildings contain was, the pal-

ace said unequivocally, "the responsibility of the Royal Household." So it may seem that while the castle stands, it is theirs, but when it burns down, it is ours.

Some commentators resolve this with a quasi-theological mystery: to the extent that monuments like Windsor belong to the monarch, they also belong to us because the holder of the throne is a symbol of ourselves as a nation. But the crunch comes with the decision over who is to pay. Not because we are a relentlessly mean or materialistic society which measures everything by its cost. But because vague waffle about rights and ownership tend to dissolve magically when the bills come in.

Labour heritage spokesman, Mrs Ann Clywd, asked Mr Brooke in the House yesterday whether he did not recognise that there was more in the country at the idea that the entire cost should be met by government. Would he welcome a "contribution" from the royal family? He declined to comment.

Michael Trend, the Conservative MP for Windsor, has excoriated politicians for "making political mischief" over the fire. In a democracy, debating the future of our institutions does not count as "mischief". But this is perhaps another form of having it both ways. When the monarchy is put under examination in any way — even to the extent of wishing to outline more clearly its role and responsibilities — then it is a revered institution whose functions must never be questioned.

When it has problems which may arise precisely from the ambiguity and paradoxes inherent in its modern position, then it is a collection of individuals who must be permitted to run their private lives as they see fit — even if those private lives are being put under intolerable pressure.

This fire may indeed end up shedding more light than heat if the kinds of dissatisfaction and confusion which it brings to the surface are fairly discussed and not pushed aside as if they were tasteless or somehow impermanent. For those who sympathise with the royal family as much as for those who criticise them, the sad events of this year culminating in the fire, ought not to be consigned to silence.

On and on and on?

THOSE OF John Major's friends who thought they would never see the day — and their numbers have grown — will celebrate the second anniversary of the prime minister's move to Number 10 Downing Street on Saturday.

Like his predecessor, Major is coy about celebrating anniversaries. He will spend the weekend quietly at Chequers, where a private lunch will be held on Sunday for Mancap, Norma Major's favourite charity. Those expected to raise a glass to the Majors include Richard Ryder, the chief whip, Graham Bright, the PM's parliamentary private secretary, Lord Rix of Whitehall, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and a cluster of the couple's friends from outside politics.

Elsewhere the celebrations will be more exuberant. In Huntingdon congratulations cards are already being dispatched to Number 10. Peter Brown, the Tory agent, says: "The prime minister will be with us next week and we will hold a suitable celebration then."

The champagne is already flowing at Number 18 Gayfer Street, Alan Duncan's pad, which was used as John Major's campaign

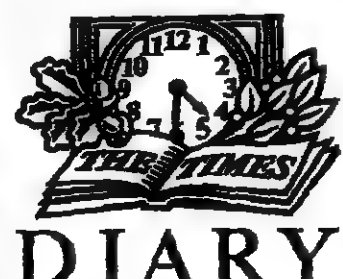
headquarters. Duncan, now MP for Rutland and Melton, is holding an open house for campaign workers, including Michael Howard, Francis Maude, Peter Lilley and Norman Lamont.

There will be no champagne in Lambeth, where Major was chairman of the housing committee in the 1970s. But Peter Golds, who introduced Major to Norma, has organised an anniversary card from his former council colleagues. "Champagne is not the Lambeth way," Golds says. "But a group of us plan to go to Brixton Road to the prime minister's favourite curry house and order a big take-away."

Baroness Thatcher is steering well clear of wakes and parties. She will be flying out of the country at the weekend on a speaking tour of the Far East. But she can take solace in the fact that Major has a long way to go before he beats her record. As Lord Archer says: "I will not be giving John a present until he has done at least 10 years."

Boning up

WHEN T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* is performed in Northamptonshire on Saturday night,



Thomas à Becket will be occupying a front row seat. Or at least part of him will be.

The church of St Mary the Virgin at Whiston, Northamptonshire, boasts one of the few relics of the martyr, a bone which is normally



kept in the church safe. It will be unveiled to the audience during the Oxford Dance Theatre's performance of the play.

The church, which has not been altered since it was consecrated in 1534 and still does not have electric lights, has had the relic for hundreds of years. The Rev David Johnson, who has just taken over the parish, says: "It only comes out on special occasions. I think this is one. Being a great fan of the play, I thought it would be novel to have Thomas in the audience with us."

Kimono-rippers

THE British have Dame Barbara Cartland and the Japanese have Uno Chiyo, who is 95 this week. But the doyenne of Japanese literature would have Dame Barbara's heroines reaching for the anelling salts. Uno has become one of Japan's leading literary figures by writing stonry love stories based upon her own entanglements.

There is no sign, despite her age, that she is running out of material. Love notes written in blood, lovers attempting suicide and endless passionate affairs are her stock in trade. To coincide with her birthday Peter Owen is publishing for the first time in English *The Story of A Single Woman* by Uno Chiyo. Owen says: "She is not in the best of



The Reverend George Cassidy, the Archdeacon of London, has just played host to Mark Hick, a pupil of Christ's Hospital, who has rediscovered an ancient privilege which allows any pupil "possessed of sufficient assurance" to ascend to the highest part of St Paul's Cathedral. "It has not happened before in living memory," says Cassidy, who is hoping that it does not lead to hordes of boys presenting themselves.

health but she is still writing for magazines. There will be huge birthday celebrations in Japan, where she is extremely well known, not just for her novels but also for owning one of the most fashionable kimono shops in Tokyo."

Westminster's down and outs will be joined by six novice nuns from the Commons tonight. But the MPs will be bedding down in the comparative luxury of Dean's Yard in the Palace of Westminster, rather than the doorways of the Strand. David Faber, Tory MP for Westbury and a grandson of Harold Macmillan, will join fellow Tory Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, the Labour MP's Frank Field and Mal-

colm Wicks and Liberal Democrat Don Foster. They are supporting National Sleep Out and promoting the plight of the homeless but are allowing themselves the luxury of sleeping bags.

In bed with Bill

ISLINGTON Council may be in danger of losing its hard-won reputation for left-wing lunacy. Not content with having lost its leader to a firm of chartered accountants, it is now fighting to become the first British borough to twin with Bill Clinton's home state of Arkansas.

In the past the councillors, renowned for their support of minority causes, have forged links with left-wing politicians in Bucharest and Grenada. But the idea of replacing the red flag over the town hall with the stars and stripes is gaining ground. Alan Barnard, agent to the Islington MP and shadow environment secretary Chris Smith, spent three weeks in Arkansas helping the Clinton campaign.

The idea has also gone down well with Joe Simpson, an Islington Labour councillor who partnered Clinton on the squash courts at Oxford. Smith, who is heading for Washington to meet Al Gore's environmental team in a week's time, says he may raise the issue then.



MAJOR'S PROGRESS

How to save Britain's EC presidency from "disaster"

After the euphoria of last year's Maastricht summit, Europe's hangover seems worse than it should. The aftershocks of Black Wednesday continue to ripple through the European monetary system; with each realignment, the dream of European monetary union recedes. The European Commission expects EC unemployment to rise to 11 per cent next year, with economic growth falling to no more than 1 per cent. And the British presidency, of course, is a disaster.

Of course, for the one certainty attaching to the rotating presidency of the EC is that shortly before the end of each country's six-month term, other governments will start to mutter about the current president's incompetence, indecision or chaotic mismanagement. There is virtue in this competition to be the government that has done the best for Europe. But it has also led to summit decisions that are ill thought-out or premature, as each government strains every muscle to pull a respectable number of rabbits from the hat at the final summit.

This is what John Major should avoid, as he begins the ritual round of capitals prior to Edinburgh. Denmark's rejection of Maastricht, deepening recession and currency turmoil are commonly held to have dealt Britain a rough hand. The timetable has slipped on almost all Britain's known priorities for Europe, notably enlargement of the EC, a settlement of the Danish budget and negotiations on the EC's new problem. But what is far more important, and less widely remarked, is the way in which this year's events have conspired to reinforce the British vision of a Europe of competitive free trade and minimal intervention from the Brussels bureaucracy.

The further that EMU recedes in practice, the less urgent is the Maastricht treaty. France and Germany know they could kill the treaty dead by vetoing Denmark's proposals; if Edinburgh fails to solve the problem, it is hardly a disaster. By contrast,

Britain's EC partners were stung by public criticism that they wasted last month's Birmingham summit in theological debate on subsidiarity instead of addressing Europe's pressing economic problems. They need to show that the EC's leadership lives on the same planet as its people.

Mr Major can build on this by concentrating at Edinburgh on two achievable goals, and the orchestration of one piece of mood music. His first priority is to save French face over last week's farm trade deal, where a French veto could sabotage the far more important Gatt Uruguay round of trade talks. For this, he needs President Mitterrand's prior agreement that a vote is appropriate only when the entire Uruguay round package — from which France stands to gain heavily — is complete. The summit could then simply instruct the Commission to seek a Gatt deal by the year's end.

Edinburgh's second goal should be the conclusion of preparations for a single market by December 31. Opening for business is not enough. The EC's 282 single market regulations could too easily be ignored by some governments, abused by others. Britain should seek agreement on steps to prevent cheating.

For mood music, he will do well to try a British variation on Jacques Delors's "growth initiative". This grand design for investment in public works is unconvincing: the funds proposed would barely serve to improve London's Northern line. The right response is not to oppose it, however, as Britain did until this week, but to make economic growth the centrepiece of Edinburgh. A concerted growth strategy, based on targeted increases in capital spending by all EC members, could win broad support. Recovery in Europe is essential to recovery in Britain. It is also essential to the dream of European union. Mr Major could borrow a slogan from Bill Clinton in the weeks before Edinburgh: *the economy, stupid*.

DEATH IN LUBECK

Bonn's reaction must not be too little as well as too late

The German government yesterday expressed "outrage, bitterness and sorrow" at the deaths of three Turks, burned to death when neo-Nazis set fire to a house in a Turkish quarter of Lübeck. The words do not begin to describe the shame felt by most Germans at the unspeakable atrocity, with all its terrifying echoes of the past. Nor do they compensate for the inertia of the Bonn government in the face of xenophobic violence that has swept Germany, east and west, for the past year. The deaths of two women and a child, born in Germany, come in the wake of more than 1,800 attacks on foreign asylum-seekers.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government has watched the steady growth of right-wing violence, political extremism and even anti-Semitism — especially in former East Germany — with an almost inexplicable paralysis. A botched display of democratic outrage in the recent official Berlin demonstration was intended to show solidarity with the victims. But not until last week did the interior ministers of the 16 states meet to work out a common strategy against the neo-Nazis. Only now is the government looking for evidence — clear as can be — that such organised thuggery constitutes a threat to German democracy as deadly as that posed by the Red Army Faction and other extreme leftist groups. Only now is there talk of banning extremist parties and passing exemplary sentences on those who attack hostels.

Where is the decisive address to the nation from the chancellor? Why has he not visited one of the firebombed hostels, received

representatives of the ethnic minorities now cowering in unprotected hostels? Why has it been left to President von Weizsäcker to voice the fears of Germany's neighbours that there is little neo about the neo-Nazis?

It is not only Herr Kohl's government that shares the blame for inaction, however. The Social Democrats, as exaggerated compensation for the totalitarian past, have refused to countenance the tough measures needed to stem such violence. They have resisted a tightening of the law on demonstrations, fearing that this could be used against the left. They have quibbled about when neo-Nazi salutes with the hand flat or the fingers making a V-sign are a violation of the law. Germany's vaunted federal system may be a safeguard against dictatorial centralism. But the lack of proper police co-ordination between the *Länder* has made it hard to fight the far right on a nationwide scale. And in east Germany local politicians and the courts have been intolerably lenient in dealing with extremism. The long SPD resistance to any change in the constitution has allowed the influx of asylum-seekers to build up to levels that are now causing a social explosion.

The government must now look again at its reluctance to ban extremist parties. It must involve the federal government more decisively in the prosecution of extremists. It must persuade state governments to implement immediately the decision they took to deploy more police to protect people at risk. And it must send out the message, to Germans and to the world, that Germans will not tolerate Nazism. Never again.

THE WISDOM OF YOUTH

Judges should be chosen before they qualify for a free bus pass

"Now I am a judge. I shall never, never budge." is often sung in the finale of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*. The sentiment is not as fanciful as many uttered by Gilbert's characters. A survey just published by *Solicitors Journal* finds 86 per cent believing the retirement age for judges should be earlier than 75 with most favouring either 60 or 65.

But the answer is not a simple one. At the same time as judges are considered too old, the shortage of High Court judges is described as "scandalous" by the Lord Chief Justice. If judges were to retire earlier, the pressure on the courts would intensify. Can the circle be squared?

The Lord Chancellor's department, which appoints judges, is forever bemoaning the shortage of suitable candidates for the bench. Yet the pool from which it chooses is kept artificially small. In practice, to qualify for a judgeship, a candidate has to be a high-flying barrister, to have been a Queen's Counsel for some years, to be thought a good chap by his seniors and peers and, preferably, to be white, middle-class and male. Those doing the selecting tend to pick others in their own image, a process that is naturally described as "appointing on merit".

Although the government brought in legislation nearly 18 months ago to open the High Court bench to solicitors too, not a single solicitor has yet been appointed. One of the qualifications for being a judge is supposed to be experience of advocacy, yet it is hard to believe that only those who have

spent their lives being partial are qualified for a job that above all requires fairness.

The first prerequisite ought to be a good legal mind. That is present in solicitors as well as barristers. There is no shortage of clever lawyers in this country, only of middle-aged barristers willing to give up a huge income for a large one. If the Lord Chancellor were to look equally kindly on solicitors, his pool would immediately widen.

It would widen still further were he to consider younger candidates. Youth, or indeed early middle age, should be no disqualification for dispensing justice. The magistrate's bench has justices in their 20s and 30s. The prime minister himself is in his 40s. These jobs involve responsibility and good judgment. Why then do most judges not start their careers until their 50s or 60s?

Young lawyers should be able to aim at one of three pinnacles: a partner in a solicitors' firm, a high-earning QC, or a judge. If candidates could start earlier without having to spend time on all the lower judicial rungs, the Lord Chancellor would find it easier to appoint women and ethnic minorities, since they are better represented among younger lawyers.

Judges should then have more in common with the people on whom they pass sentence. They would start with a sharper mind and would spend longer in the job. Most important, they would shake off the fuddy-duddy, out-of-touch image that has bedevilled their profession. A 35-year-old judge might even have heard of the Beatles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

How to restore Windsor Castle and who should pay

From Mr George Ferguson

Sir, It was predictable that there should be political calls for the Queen to pay for the repair of Windsor Castle. It is only reasonable however that HM government should act as the guardians of our national heritage's most remarkable monuments.

Now that so much has been lost, no reproduction can quite catch the spirit of the age in which a work of art or craft was created, although it would be wrong to imply that the skills no longer exist. There are many fine craftsmen in this country, but my fear is that the deep recession in the construction industry is destroying the tradition of apprenticeship so essential to the maintenance and development of these skills.

It seems to me that there is now an opportunity at Windsor for the Royal Family to put into practice some of the admirable principles which they have so successfully encouraged elsewhere. Their contribution could be to launch a trust for the purpose of turning the repair of Windsor Castle into a teaching laboratory for the conservation of materials and the practice of fine traditional crafts. Then maybe one day we shall be able to look back to the fire as having been a disaster out of which we gained more for the future than we lost from the past.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE FERGUSON
(Managing Director,
Ferguson Mann Architects,
Royal Colonnade,
18 Great George Street,
Bristol, Avon,
November 22.

From Mrs F. Leon-Smith

Sir, I cannot see any reason why the Queen should not herself pay to repair damage caused to those parts of the castle which are not open to the public.

Yours faithfully,
F. LEON-SMITH,
The Niven Suite, The Mansion,
Oatlands Park, Surrey,
November 21.

From Mr Evan M. Davies

Sir, Reporting the fire at Windsor Castle, the BBC Television newsreader last Friday evening described the damage and said: "It is likely the taxpayer will have to foot the bill."

People interviewed daily almost invariably comment that all could be

right if the government gave them more funds. Perhaps the BBC should have said: "If the taxpayer foots the bill."

Yours faithfully,
EVAN M. DAVIES,
31 Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey,
November 22.

From Dr John Burchmore

Sir, I am encouraged to hear that Her Majesty's government has promised that the castle will be fully restored but I, and I am sure others, would like to contribute towards the cost of some aspect of the restoration, both as a way of showing our pride in our national heritage and as a way of declaring our loyalty and affection to our Sovereign at this time.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURCHMORE,
Quarr Hill House, Quarr Hill,
Ryde, Isle of Wight,
November 23.

From Mrs P. G. Glover

Sir, If the government is to fund repairing Windsor Castle, could not it be made a stipulation in contracts, for the multiplicity of trades involved, that a proportion of those employed be young people taken off the unemployed register, or perhaps on apprenticeships?

Yours faithfully,
PRISCILLA GLOVER,
Rossie Mills House,
Rossie Braes,
By Montrose, Angus,
November 22.

From Mr David Catton

Sir, It seems premature for the government to offer to pay for the repairs to Windsor Castle. We are told it was deliberate policy not to have insurance cover because of the cost. If the damage were found to have been caused by negligence on behalf of the contractors, for example, surely they would have been insured to cover public liability. This is a normal business precaution and one which most companies have in place to protect themselves and their employees in such cases.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CATTON,
Cobblestones, Gussard Wood,
Wheatthorpe, Hertfordshire,
November 23.

Housing needs

From the Right Reverend Ronald Bowlby

Sir, It would be comforting to see in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement (report, November 13) a new long-term economic policy for meeting housing need. Sadly, a close reading of the text shows scant evidence of this.

The £750 million boost to housing associations consists largely of public money brought forward from funds earmarked for 1993-4 and, to a greater extent than in the past, private money will have to be used as well. The net result will be higher rents which will make housing even less affordable than it now is for many people, especially those with low earnings.

Local authorities will no doubt welcome the ability to use, over the next 12 months, 100 per cent of

capital receipts from any new sales of council homes. But it appears that these funds are not to be ringfenced for housing provision. Meanwhile, they are still prevented from using more than 25 per cent of capital receipts from houses they have previously sold, and the amount of money they will be allowed to borrow for new housing investment is to be cut by £400 million.

We see the Statement as a series of short-term measures. Welcome as some of them are, they fall pitifully short of the new housing policy which the people of Britain so badly need.

Yours etc.,
RONALD BOWLBY
(President,
Churches' National Housing
Coalition,
Central Buildings,
Oldham Street, Manchester 1,
November 13.

First catch your boar

From Dr W. D. Booth

Sir, Lady Richmond (letter, November 13) is concerned that Frances Bissell's recipes are becoming more esoteric, as exemplified by her recipe for wild boar and grouse pie. Lady Richmond relates her concern to the absence of wild boar in supermarkets and implies that too much attention is being given to exotic foods not readily available.

As founder and secretary of the British Wild Boar Association, I wish to comment that food products once relatively unknown are now widely available, e.g., oyster mushrooms and farmed venison.

Although supplies of wild boar are scarce, there is considerable scope for expanding the market and articles like Frances Bissell's do much to assist this.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BOOTH,
Fen End Cottage, 30 Fen Road,
Milton, Cambridge.

From Ms Helen Sutherland

Sir, Lady Richmond's maxim, "live simply so that others may simply live",

is an excellent one, and one to which I adhere, being part of the impoverished farming class.

She mentions esoteric ingredients in Frances Bissell's recipes, and indeed wild boar might be considered to be so, but the dish is obviously intended for high days and holidays.

We are one of the producers she mentioned in her column (November 7), producing the crossbreed Wild Blue, and it is by diversifying into such "esoteric" fields that we are trying "simply" to survive in farming.

Cheap, lean-meat protein equates directly with factory farming, something we refuse to take part in: our pigs enjoy the highest welfare imaginable.

People need not eat a lot of meat protein but they should question the conditions under which it is grown. Maybe then farmers might begin to be appreciated by a nation that seems not to want to know how its food arrives on the plate in such abundance compared to so many other nations who lack even the basic staples.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN SUTHERLAND,
Upper Eldon Farm,
King's Somborne, Hampshire,
November 13.

Europe's bad press

From Mr Gyles Brandreth, MP for City of Chester (Conservative)

Sir, Your diatribe reports (November 23) that a new EC directive will result in "a ban on the stirring of the Navy's giant Christmas puddings in the traditional way — with a wooden oar" because it is unhygienic. I am sure it is unhygienic but I am equally sure that a determined Royal Navy will continue to get away with it.

Spreading word about Euro-lunacy may be good sport, but it is always responsible journalism? Recently I saw a television news report claiming that another EC directive would oblige our fishermen to wear hairnets

and showing a fisherman in a hairnet as if to prove it.

This is a fantasy, with no more basis in truth than the widely-spread rumours of recent months that the EC was about to ban round and soft cheeses, home-made jam, prawn-cocktail crisps, milkmen and the boys and girls who deliver newspapers.

Euro-myths like these abound and would be amusing were it not for the fact that many people believe them and, incredibly, clearly want to believe them. Is seeing the worst in everything a national characteristic?

Yours faithfully,
GYLES BRANDRETH,
House of Commons,
November 23.

School exams 'league tables'

From Mr John Cuchrane

Sir, Exam boards can be chosen more for their results profiles than for their curriculum content (reports, November 19, letters, November 21). Pupils can be steered into easier subjects, or encouraged to concentrate, particularly at A level, on subjects they find easiest, even if this perpetuates illiteracy among the numerate and innumeracy among the literate.

Teacher resources can be concentrated into turning potential O grades into C grades, thus boosting the all-important proportion of pupils with five A-G grades at the expense of pupils of both higher and lower academic ability.

A school that currently advises its less academic pupils to take a mix of GCSE and City and Guild papers may well see the need to drop the City and Guild papers, as these do not score in the table, and to enter these pupils for additional and less appropriate GCSE exams as this will score more points in the "5 of pupils with 5 A-G grades" column.

Such strategies would improve a school's ranking in the table but would not improve the overall education of the pupils in the school. A league table that drives schools to make such decisions is perverse. A government that designs and promotes it so heavily should be forced to think again.

Finally, the tables only show one year's results: a three or four-year average would smooth out the biggest variable, the changing quality of intake, but this would need to be shown against the best result of the recent past to demonstrate the school's potential.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CUCHRANE,
Fairview House,
Leafield, Witney, Oxford,
November 19.

From the Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference

Sir, Your education correspondent rightly raised some of the concerns of those in the teaching profession about the publication of examination results for comparative purposes (report, November 18). The current exercise by the Department for Education is not better, and in some respects much worse, than those undertaken by various newspapers in recent years. This explains why independent schools, whose results have been already subject to substantial scrutiny, were less than enthusiastic about this particular scheme and remain hostile to the whole business of publishing league tables.

Only those children whose fifteenth or seventeenth birthdays occurred in the chosen 12-month period had their results recorded. As a result many children who were taking the examinations early, and these are usually the academically most able, were excluded. In some subjects in some independent schools such candidates accounted for over 30 per cent of the entry; and this is not a problem confined to independent schools.

Moreover, there are many young people who for good reasons are taking examinations over-age. Along with those candidates who leave school after taking examinations early their results will never be reported. The DFE has promised to look at this aspect of its reporting again. We strongly urge that reporting should relate to the school year (not the pupil's age) and in the meantime advise those who have read the publication to apply a proper scepticism.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN ANTHONY,
Secretary,
Headmasters' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester,
November 19.

From Mr Michael Willcox

Sir, The government's objectives must be clear: to ensure that educational funds are channelled into the areas where they are most needed.

The most deserving schools are easy to find. They appeared at the bottom of the league tables in today's *Times*.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WILLCOX,
58 Albert Road West,
Bolton, Lancashire,
November 19.

Pounds out of pocket

From Mr Simon T. Grice

Sir, I have a short contract to work at a European research establishment in Switzerland, but I am being paid by a British university in pounds sterling into a bank account in the UK. In July the research establishment paid the university a lump sum, corresponding to four months' salary, converted from Swiss francs.

Every month I transfer my salary from my UK bank account to Switzerland. Since July the pound has fallen from 2.5 SF to about 2.1, so when I transferred my salary last month I lost approximately 16 per cent.

The UK and the Swiss banks do not have it and neither do the university or the research establishment. I do not have it either, so where is it?

Yours sincerely,
SIMON GRICE,
Chez Salma Alshamsy,
3 Rue des Hautains,
01630 St-Genis-Pouilly, France,
November 20.

NEWS

EC seeks £50bn carrot for recovery

■ Europe needs to spend some £50 billion on big capital projects if it is to drag itself out of recession and overcome unemployment and social unrest, Henning Christophersen, the EC finance commissioner, told EC finance ministers.

The money, to be borrowed on international markets, should go on communications and transport networks, and he urged the Community to contribute £5 billion to a special investment fund. He hoped it would encourage a similar contribution from private interests. Pages 1, 2, 16, 17

Violent Berlin protest after killings

■ A Berlin demonstration in protest at the killings of three Turks — two women and a child — turned violent as left-wing youths throwing stones clashed with riot police in the mainly Turkish Kreuzberg district of the city. Pages 1, 15, 17, 20

Windsor Castle bill

The government is to meet the cost of restoring Windsor Castle in the face of continuing pressure from some Labour MPs to force the Queen to contribute to a bill that is likely to come to tens of millions of pounds. Page 1, 3

£160m drug seized

Detectives and Customs officers seized 1.1 tonnes of cocaine worth £160 million, the largest drug haul made in Britain, after armed officers stormed an oil rig support vessel on the Thames a few miles downstream from Tower Bridge. Page 1

Maastricht bill hint

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, disclosed to the Commons foreign affairs committee that the Bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty might need to be changed to bring in possible concessions to the Danes. Page 2

Danger in toys

Parents tempted by the recession to buy cheap imitations of well known toys for Christmas were warned yesterday that some fakes could be potentially dangerous. Page 4

Cancer warning

Damage to the ozone layer will result in five million cases of cancer and 70,000 deaths in the United States alone in the next century unless ozone-destroying chemicals are phased out quickly, William Reilly, Head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, said. Page 12

Bias blamed for lack of female judges

■ In the wake of a survey finding that 65 per cent feel "judges are out of touch with everyday life and everyday people", and that 80 per cent favoured more female judges, the shortage of women in the senior ranks will be blamed today on bias at all levels of the profession in a report commissioned by the Bar and the Lord Chancellor's department. Page 4

Paris plays for time

As French farmers staged angry protests against American interests, the Mitterrand administration signalled that it would try to defuse a EC crisis over agricultural trade by playing for time and seeking compensation within the Community. Page 2

Mafia-Colombia link

American and European anti-drug officials believe the Italian Mafia has forged an alliance with the Colombian cocaine cartels to supply an expanding European market, in return for assisting the Colombians to break into the New York heroin market. Page 3

Haitian influx

Tens of thousands of Haitians are expected to make fresh attempts to reach the United States after Bill Clinton's January 20 inauguration, presenting him with an immediate crisis largely of his own making. Page 11

Ankara peace effort

Amid its already strong calls for military intervention, Turkey has organised a one-day conference of all Balkan states in Ankara to try to increase pressure for an end to the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Page 12

Democracy urged

King Hussein of Jordan, who has legalised political parties after a 36-year ban, called for the introduction of pluralism and democracy in Iraq, the most brutal Arab dictatorship. Page 8



A child places flowers outside the house where three Turks died in racially-inspired arson in Moelia, near Hamburg. Pages 1, 15, 17

ERM aftermath

The pound reacted mildly to the weekend devaluations, rising 0.42 pence to DM2.4266 but slipping 0.52c to \$1.5150 and leaving the trade weighted index up 0.2 at 78.6. Shares hit a trading record but the FT-SE 100 index closed 9.5 points down at 2722.9. Page 21

Wider gap

The trade gap widened to £1.16bn in October, and looks set to worsen, reflecting a jump of almost 5 per cent in the import bill due to the pound's devaluation since September. Page 21

Wider audit

The Auditing Practices Board has called for a big increase in the role and responsibilities of auditors of companies' accounts to meet changed needs of shareholders. Page 21

£50,000 fine

The Football League fined Barnet £50,000 for failing to keep proper financial records and for irregular payments to players. Stan Flahman, the club chairman, allegedly assaulted cameramen before and after the seven-hour hearing. Page 40

Prop power

Injuries have given the England rugby league side an experimental feel, with two prop forwards drafted into the starting line-up to face Wales at Swansea on Friday. Page 36

Softer approach

Chris Eubank, the world super-middleweight champion, said he is "taking a softer approach. I want to be more accessible". Page 40

Breaking point

The royal institute set up to promote good management practice across the public sector is expected to slip quietly into liquidation next month. Page 28

Rent chasing

How do you make tenants pay? A look at new council strategies. Page 28

Hair today

Criminal barristers have delivered their verdict on wigs: a Criminal Bar Association survey has revealed the answer. Page 33

Legal views

Two new ventures show the increasing involvement of lawyers in campaigning and educational TV production. Page 34

Music

It is time to reassess the British composer Henry Purcell. His tercentenary is not due until 1995, but celebrations have already begun. Page 29

Cinema

In the Thirties and Forties several operatic divas made successful outings as cinema stars. David Robinson previews a short season featuring Lily Pons, Risë Stevens and Grace Moore at the National Film Theatre from tonight. Page 31

Book

A posthumous biography of the concert promoter Bill Graham offers an alternative history of the rock counter-culture. Page 31

Television review

Catholic and Sex (Channel 4). Page 31

Rising right

The dilemma facing Germany is not the threat from the outright neo-Nazis but the task of drawing the line where the respectable right merges into the unconscionable. Page 15

Thinking it over

Suppose you buy a ticket for a play that turns out to be so encruciating you would gladly have paid not to be there. Do you stick with it to the curtain? Page 14

Or Anthony Storr

Royalty matters immensely to many, but it is not clear why. What is it in human nature which seems to demand that some people be singled out as magically significant? Page 14



Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper serving 20 life sentences, has confessed to two more attacks in Yorkshire in the late 1970s. Page 4



Gillian Shepherd, employment minister, has turned to EastEnders for inspiration in her training revolution. Page 7



Colin McRae of Scotland won five of ten stages and led by two seconds at Chester, end of the second day of the British RAC Rally. Page 40



Jimmy Knapp, of the RMT transport union, announced his committee's suspension of the London Underground strike due tomorrow. Page 3

Not many who inform on the IRA live to tell the tale, and even fewer give interviews. *Inside Story Special* (BBC 1, 10.25) Page 39

Major's progress

A concerted growth strategy, based on targeted increases in capital spending by all EC members, could win broad support. Recovery in Europe is essential to recovery in Britain. It is also essential to the dream of European union. Page 17

Death in Lubeck

The German government must look again at its reluctance to ban extremist parties. And it must send out the message to Germans and to the world, that Germans will not tolerate Nazism. Never again. Page 17

The wisdom of youth

If judges were appointed younger, they would have more in common with the people on whom they pass sentence. Most important, they would shake off the fuddy-duddy, out-of-touch image that has bedevilled their profession. Page 17

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

When one considers what has happened to the Treaty of Maastricht over the last six months, it seems incredible that European leaders seem still determined to press on with it in Edinburgh. Page 16

JANET DALEY

While no one would wish to be hard-hearted about the distress which the royal family must feel, it seems peculiarly absurd to liken the monarch to a suburban matron returning home to find the roof over her head gone and favourite possessions destroyed. Page 16

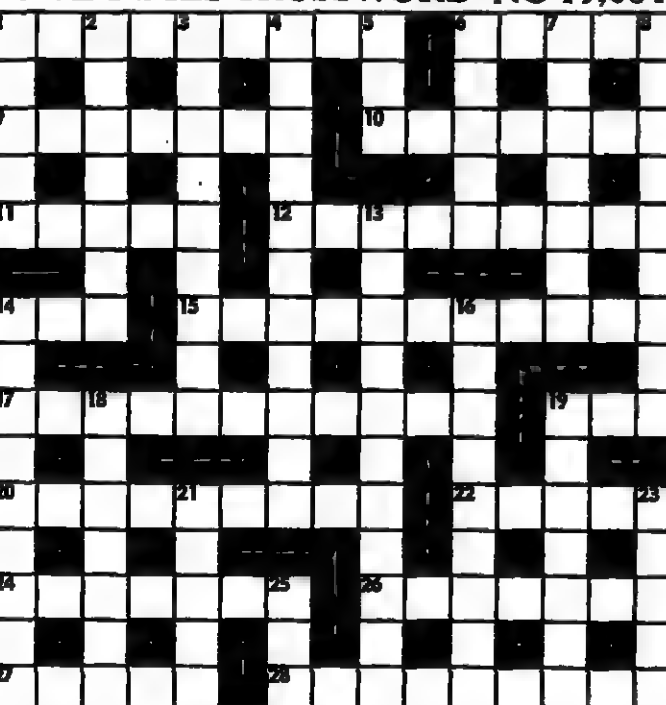
LYNNE TRUSS

Nobody should be under the illusion that a valid home protection policy for St George's Hall, Windsor, would have removed the tricky problem of who will pay up. The tens of millions would simply have been slipped on our premiums, just like that. Page 16

Suggestions on how best Windsor Castle should be restored and who should foot the bill. Page 17

The quarrel now is not between France and the United States, but between France and its European partners that support this settlement. *The Washington Post*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,084



ACROSS

- 1 Something fitment, ceramic — window one just cannot appreciate (5,4)
- 6 Money bulking large in Africa and Asia (5)
- 9 Very active group of police holding a crowd back (7)
- 10 Back and tail uncommonly sore (7)
- 11 You'll need to coach the coaches (5)
- 12 Maiden rescued along with City Father (9)
- 14 What you might see in ire? Definitely! (3)
- 15 I sense Latin translation to be unnecessary (11)
- 17 Senseless? No, much earlier (6,2,3)
- 19 Bats almost scored (3)
- 20 Rich man's funny dog caught rodent (9)
- 22 It's very pleasant with reduction of sound (5)

DOWN

- 24 Times can get taken in by letters becoming obsolete (7)
- 26 Iron monarch, must limit desire to cause agitation (7)
- 27 You will embrace masculine subject (5)
- 28 Tommy's equipment lay beside road with lamps (9)
- 1 It's found in bathroom of Parisian, cracking a lidlet (5)
- 2 Local area in city overlooking a highway (7)
- 3 Time for another one? (9)
- 4 Take group tripping round both entrances to Acropolis — in this? (7,4)
- 5 Drawn match (3)
- 6 Set a poster in exotic city (5)
- 7 Is one linked with Limerick upper over one from Middle East? (7)
- 8 Magazine supreme, perhaps, in special clothes (9)
- 13 Diet's faults elaborated as "insulting the palate" (11)
- 14 One Greek character coming in late — he'll get what's coming to him (9)
- 16 The fermentation process — absolutely has not (5,4)
- 17 Indefatigable policeman needing an instant to unwind (7)
- 19 Fool in hall brought up by senior pupil (7)
- 21 Wild cat's sudden attack lacking power (5)
- 23 A pain in the neck mostly when looking up and around (5)
- 25 Bell, book, and no end of candle (3)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,083

CONSCRIPTION
C U O N O A
O R T O L A S P A R R O W
U L S E S T
R E A D I N G T O T E M I C
Y S T R E E K
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L E A P E D E V E R S O R E
I E M N O M R

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
West, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	705
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire	706
West Midlands	707
North Midlands	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Staffordshire & Warwick	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Yorkshire & Cleveland	714
North East	715
North West	716
North West & Cumbria	717
North West & Lancashire	718
North West & Yorkshire	719
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M-ways/roads M11-Dorset T	734
M-ways/roads Dorset T-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Midlands	742
East Angles	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746
Northern Ireland	747

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Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
West, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	705
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire	706
West Midlands	707
North Midlands	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Staffordshire & Warwick	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Yorkshire & Cleveland	714
North East	715
North West	716
North West & Cumbria	717
North West & Lancashire	718
North West & Yorkshire	719
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North West & Lancashire	729
North West & Lancashire	730

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Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M11	733
M-ways/roads M11-Dorset T	734
M-ways/roads Dorset T-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Midlands	742
East Angles	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746
Northern Ireland	747

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Shropshire, Staffordshire & Warwick	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Yorkshire & Cleveland	714
North East	715
North West	716
North West & Cumbria	717
North West & Lancashire	718
North West & Yorkshire	719
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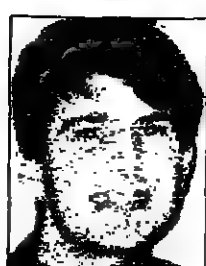
London 4.01 pm to 7.35 am
 Bristol 4.10 pm to 7.45 am
 Edinburgh 6.51 pm to 8.00 pm
 Manchester 4.05 pm to 7.53 am
 Penzance 4.25 pm to 7.51 am

Sun 7.34 am	Sun a/c 4.01 pm
Moon a/c	Moon a/c



ARTS 29-31

Purcell: why the party is starting three years early



LAW 32-35

Spotlight turns on three cases of life and death



SPORT 36-40

Flashman's Barnet are fined £50,000

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MANAGEMENT
ON TUESDAY
Page 28

THE TIMES 2

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

COMEBACK



The latest currency turbulence raises questions on the timing of the Italian lira's return to the ERM
Page 25

COOL DOWN

The turmoil in the coal industry has caused the builders of gas powered stations to defer some projects
Page 22

NUMBER UP



About 500 Barclays branches are set to disappear from the high street over the next three years
Page 23

LAW TIMES



A multi-disciplinary mix of court members would help family justice, Paula Davies suggests
Page 33

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5150 (-0.0052)
German mark 2.4266 (+0.0042)
Exchange index 78.6 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2034.3 (-1.6)
FT-SE 100 2722.9 (-9.5)
New York Dow Jones 3231.95 (+4.59)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge Closed

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 7%
3-month interbank 7 1/8%
3-month eligible bills 6 1/2-6 3/4%
US Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 9.23-9.22%
Govt Bonds 100%+100%

CURRENCIES

London: New York \$1.5157
DM 2.4261
Sfr 2.1802
Yen 162.24
Index 78.6
ECU 1.80-1.81
ECU 1.80-1.81
ECU 1.80-1.81
ECU 1.80-1.81

GOLD

London Fixing: 445.33/4 25 PM \$334.05
Gold 334.10-334.80
220 20-220 70
New York: 334.05-334.55*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) ... \$19.15/bbl (\$19.40)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 139.9 October (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Widening trade gap reflects fall in sterling

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE trade gap widened to £1.16 billion in October, and looks set to worsen until well into next year, reflecting an immediate jump of almost 5 per cent in the import bill due to the sharp devaluation of the pound since mid-September.

Government figures showed that exports, which are only expected to benefit from more competitive sterling after a considerable lag, performed well last month, given the poor world economic environment.

Exports climbed £310 million in October, to a seasonally adjusted £9.06 billion, the second highest monthly total on record. But imports, which have stayed ahead of exports despite the severe recession, were £822 million higher at £10.22 billion, the highest for two-and-a-half years. This again increased the deficit on visible trade, which had narrowed to £991 million in September. The current account deficit, the broad balance of payments measure, which encompasses visible trade and invisible items, such as banking, insurance and

Britain's trade balance will deteriorate over the next few months before improving in the longer term because of the pound's devaluation. But exports reached £9 billion, the second highest monthly total on record

shipping, widened to £1.03 billion last month from £991 million in September.

But the underlying trade position pointed to further deterioration. The figures for visible trade, excluding oil and erratic items, such as aircraft and diamonds, showed a deficit of £1.43 billion in October, after a £1.23 billion shortfall the month before.

The impact of the 14 per cent devaluation of the pound since market pressures forced the currency out of the exchange-rate mechanism on September 16 is already clearly visible in import values. The devaluation effect is expected to inflate the import bill this month and in months ahead.

Exports are not expected to gain from the advantage of the cheaper pound until the middle of next year, in keeping with the "J-curve" theory that describes the delayed improve-

ment in exports as the trade balance adjusts to currency depreciation.

While the Treasury sought to highlight the continued rise of exports in a difficult world market, City economists remained concerned about the continued rise in imports in volume terms, which indicates increasing import penetration. The concern is that any recovery in domestic demand will quickly translate into more imports, underlining the structural nature of the trade deficit.

"For an economy that is going nowhere we are still importing an awful lot of goods," Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turbitt

said. Although exports had held up well, he fears that slowdown, or recession, in Germany and other key markets, coupled with the state of competitive devaluations, cast doubt over how long the higher level of exports can be sustained. The volume of exports rose sharply in October, after dipping in September, but imports also moved up in volume terms. Government statisticians believe the upturn in imports is starting to level off, while exports are starting to pick up again.

But the figures show that in the latest three months, the volume of exports, excluding oil and erratic items, were unchanged from the previous three months and 4 per cent up on a year ago. Import volumes were 1.5 per cent up over the past three months and 9 per cent higher than a year ago. The deficit on manufactured goods in the three months was £1.97 billion, the highest for a three-month period since October 1990.

Recessions have usually produced a trade surplus, but the persistent monthly deficits still being registered appear to rule out a return to surplus before the economy recovers. Michael Saunders, economist at Salomon Brothers, expects the trade deficit to worsen until mid-1993 and foresees no surplus for a couple of years.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, forecast in his Autumn Statement that the current account deficit will widen to £15.5 billion next year from £12 billion this year. Adam Cole, economist at James Capel, predicts that the 1993 deficit is more likely to be £20 billion.

European single market changes mean that figures for trade with the Community, which accounts for about 60 per cent of British trade, will not be published for the first half of next year, creating a statistical "black hole".

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Italians eager, page 25

Comment, page 25



Glossy figures: Robin Miller, chief executive of Emap, announced a rise in half-time profits to £14.8 million

Auditors answer critics by claiming bigger role

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Auditing Practices Board has called for a big increase in the role and responsibilities of auditors of companies' accounts to meet changed needs of shareholders and others with a stake in their affairs. Reforms envisaged would require changes in law and board practice and raise costs.

A discussion paper, *The Future Development of Auditing*, concludes that the profession has not rebuilt confidence in company accounts and blames auditors for failing to meet expectations that they should provide more than the statutory audit. John MacFarlane, managing director of Citibank UK, who led the committee that drew up the paper, said: "Their failure to respond to this has denied confidence in auditors."

The board, which sets standards for auditing, proposes that auditors should review and report on the proper conduct of a company's affairs, including compliance with the boardroom code proposed by the Cadbury committee and financial controls. They should take a fuller role in detecting and reporting fraud and, further ahead, report on environmental performance and employee interests, such as pensions. Conventional auditing should be extended to some vetting of interim profits.

More controversially, auditors could report on a company's future viability, reviewing risks and warning shareholders if they were material. The board also envisages abolishing one-line audit reports in favour of giving reasons behind auditors' conclusions and reviewing a board commentary on future prospects such as that suggested by the Accounting Standards Board. Mr MacFarlane stressed that auditing reforms depended on reform of the law to limit auditors' liability and make it

proportionate to their blame for errors and failures. He said: "This is fundamental to making the advances we are trying to make."

Some of the key ideas in the report are aimed at promoting debate rather than providing solutions. In particular, it sees an increased role for shareholders in overseeing auditors' performance in overcoming auditors' perceived lack of independence from a company's board, which is seen as the client. The paper says rotation of auditors might help, but rejects separation of audit from consultancy.

Audit committees of non-executive directors, proposed by the Cadbury committee, are seen as an insufficient safeguard. Possible alternatives include: big shareholders ap-

pointing an audit representative, appointment of a trustee to oversee audit for shareholders or a wider group of stakeholders, or the creation of an independent panel to advise on issues arising in audits.

In another radical departure, the report suggests "a single over-arching body" may be needed to cover standard setting, monitoring and discipline for auditors.

The paper was welcomed by many in the accountancy profession. David Lindsell, senior technical partner of Ernst & Young, said, however, that it could raise expectations too high by understating the time, legal and boardroom changes required, and higher costs.

Comment, page 25

Emap pleases City with 50% advance

By GEORGE SIVELL

ROBIN Miller, chief executive of Emap, the publishing group, pleased the City yesterday with a 50 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14.8 million for the six months to October 3. The dividend increases 8 per cent to 2.075p a share.

Graham Rose-Russell, the chairman, is to retire as chairman next year. A successor has yet to be announced. Yesterday, Mr Rose-Russell said: "Our investments in the last three years are showing useful results in profit terms. And with a strong balance sheet, there will be many more opportunities to grow our business both through acquisitions and launches."

In revenue terms, he said he did not expect "any improvement in this financial year".

Tempus, page 24

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Engineers see tax breaks as solution

By ROSS TIERMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Engineering Employers Federation is calling for creation of a new industry-sponsored body within government and for 100 per cent capital allowances as part of its blueprint for a British manufacturing revival.

Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, declined an invitation to discuss the EEF proposals, saying he had to be in Parliament for last night's debate on the sale of machinery to Iraq by Matrix Churchill. Details were presented instead to Tim Sainsbury, the industry minister.

Undeterred by the apparent rebuff, Neil Johnson, the EEF director general, was last night making a series of presentations to backbench



Johnson: presentations

MPs at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, opposite the Houses of Parliament. The engineering organisation has also held discussions with Robin Cook, the shadow industry spokesman.

Mr Johnson believes Britain needs a consensus between politicians, industry and the financial community to bring about economic revival. "If we fail to give industry the boost it needs, we will quickly see our standards of living decline as the benefits of being an advanced and prosperous economy slip away," says the EEF in its *Industrial Strategy* document.

The proposals were drawn up after the EEF pledged to provide in six weeks the industrial strategy it said the government had failed to produce in six months.

The EEF said Britain must face up to the implications of an enduring balance of payments deficit at a time of deep recession, and the danger of low-cost competition from de-

veloping countries. Although there was no need for government intervention in industry, the government must recognise that "most economic growth, even in service industries, originates in technological innovation from manufacturing industry."

The EEF says: "To maintain our standards of living we need to revive industrial innovation. To do that we need a vision of what is possible and how it can be achieved - an industrial strategy."

Rejecting suggestions that the EEF's proposals were too woolly, Mr Johnson said Britain needed a new government department, either at the DTI, or, given the DTI's past failings, at the Treasury, to ensure manufacturing's needs were taken into account in policy decisions.

سك: امان الأصل

National Grid cuts 700 jobs as 'dash for gas' peters out

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE "dash for gas" in power generation is petering out as companies cancel or defer projects in response to rising gas prices and uncertainty over the government's energy review.

But the slowdown will come too late to prevent gas plants eating into the market for coal. One of the factors blamed for British Coal's plans to close 31 pits with 30,000 jobs lost.

Four projects to build gas-fired power stations, with capacity totalling 2,213 mw, have been cancelled recently. National Grid Company said yesterday. A similar number, with capacity of 3,771 mw, have been deferred.

David Jefferies, chairman of NGC, said he now believed the surplus of generating capacity in England and Wales would peak in the winter of 1996/97 at 32 per cent. Although that is ten points higher than the typical plant margin of comparable national power generation systems, it represents a very sharp

cut on previous NGC predictions. In the past, NGC has suggested that theoretically, surplus capacity could reach 58 per cent, but the cancellations and deferrals have coincided with an accelerating programme of coal plant closures by existing generators.

NGC, owned by the 12 regional power supply companies, said 1,256 mw of gas plant had already been completed. Another 8,745 mw was under construction. But "the market is reacting to coal crisis," it said, "people are having second thoughts."

NGC is extending its job-shedding in response to a new four-year price cap imposed by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, with effect from next April of RPI inflation minus 3 per cent. "That is an extremely tough target," said Mr Jefferies. Without technological advances to exploit, cutting jobs was the best way to achieve savings. The company plans to shed a

further 700 employees by the end of March 1994, to a total of 5,000. Restructuring and redundancies are expected to cost £40 million this year.

NGC is talking to three American telephone companies seeking to become its partner in plans to install a high-quality bulk telephone network beside its power cables. Telecom Electric, a new company, has been formed. It will be chaired by Gordon Owen, former chief executive at Cable & Wireless's Mercury subsidiary, and the chief executive will be David Day, previously a BT director. TE will invest £100 million over the next 18 months.

In the half-year to September, NGC's turnover rose 1.7 per cent to £666 million, despite a 0.3 per cent dip, to 117.5 terawatt hours, in electricity consumption. Pre-tax profits rose 7.3 per cent to £261 million. Dividends to shareholder companies rose 10.5 per cent to £42 million.



Turning down the gas: John Uttley, finance director, left, and David Jefferies

Rights boost Anglo-Irish Bank

ANGLO-IRISH Bank, the Dublin commercial bank, raised pre-tax profits by 13 per cent to Ir£7.3 million (£6.7 million) in the year to end-September.

It did so with the help of an Ir£26 million rights issue a year ago. The bank's refusal to

expand its loan book aggressively meant that earnings fell 23 per cent to Ir£5.09p a share. The final dividend is being held at Ir£2p a share, to make Ir£3.30p for the full year (Neil Bennett writes).

Gerry Murphy, Anglo's chairman, said the bank is

withdrawing from stockbroking in Ireland. Lending in Ireland remains the bank's main market, and advances grew by Ir£163 million to Ir£513 million. The bank had a loss of Ir£1.61 million in Britain, partly due to high bad debt provisions.

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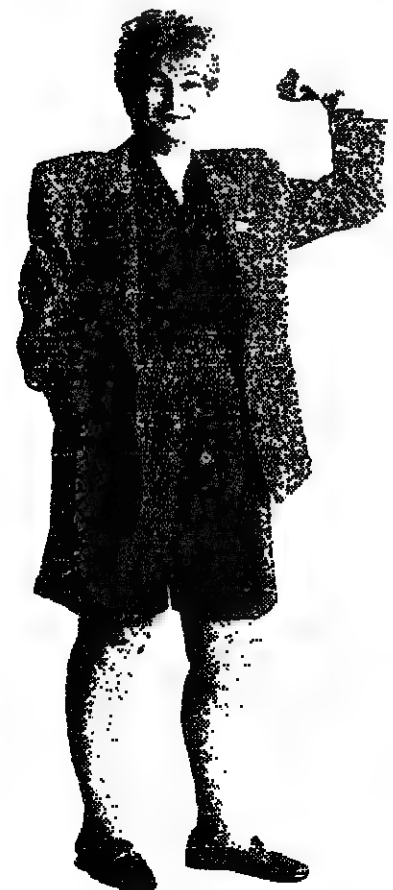
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Type of business _____

No of employees (UK) _____ (Overseas) _____

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BUSINESS FUNDING

Cost increase depresses Stock Exchange income

INCOME of the London Stock Exchange fell by £6 million to £94.5 million in the first six months of the financial year, due to lower settlement and new-issue volumes and the transfer of the traded-options market from the exchange to Liffe.

Over the same period, however, total costs rose by £5.9 million, mainly because of feasibility studies on a new trading system. Another factor was that spending on the exchange's Taurus paperless settlement system increased to £13.5 million, near the expected peak.

In the first half of the year, the London Stock Exchange still managed to make a marginal profit of £495,000, against £13.8 million at the same stage a year earlier, but Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, the exchange's chairman, said that there was again likely to be a deficit for the full year, which would be slightly higher than last year's £8.2 million.

ShareLink, the independent execution-only stockbroker, is to spend £1.25 million on computers and software to increase its capacity to handle the business of private clients.

Hewetson cuts payout

HEWETSON, the Hull flooring-products and building materials group, has reduced its interim dividend to 0.5p (1.6p) after another difficult trading period. Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-September fell to £476,000 (£703,000) on turnover of £14.3 million (£19.2 million). Undiluted earnings per share were 2.09p (4.6p). Interest charges have been reduced and gearing has fallen to 28 per cent (48 per cent). Alan Marsh, former joint managing director of Hewetson Floors, resigned in July. Bernard Murphy was appointed finance director in August.

Allen takes a tumble

ALLEN, the property and construction group, saw pre-tax profits fall to £860,000 (£2.01 million) in the six months to end-September. Turnover was £25.1 million (£31.4 million). Earnings per share were 2.45p (5.88p). The interim dividend has been maintained at 1.65p a share, and the board intends to recommend a final dividend of 3.35p a share, making a maintained total of 5p for the year. The shares fell 20p to 57p in September after a warning that interim profits would be "materially" lower. Yesterday, the shares were unchanged at 66p.

Advance by Diploma

DIPLOMA, the electronics and building components group, reports pre-tax profits for the 53 weeks ended September up from £14.5 million to £16.6 million on a turnover down from £141.9 million to £132.3 million. Net cash holdings at the year-end totalled £26.3 million (£26.5 million). The final dividend is raised from 6.5p to 7p a share, making 9.75p (8.75p) for the year. Profits from electronics were £8.4 million (£6.2 million), though building components' profits were marginally weaker at £6 million (£6.2 million). The shares rose 23p to 345p.

Capita wins contract

CAPITA Group, the company that specialises in providing management services to the public sector, has won a five-year contract worth £15 million to operate Kent County Council's mainframe computer and data network. The contract was won by competitive tender. Capita will create a multi-purpose business centre at the Kings Hill business park, West Malling, near Maidstone, creating 150 jobs in addition to the 50 Kent county council computer staff who are being transferred to Capita.

Chemex turns in a profit

By GEORGE SIVELL

CHEMEX, the environmental-analysis group formed in 1987, turned in its first full-year profit yesterday of £52,083 before tax for the 12 months to September 30.

The profit compares to a loss of £786,828 during the previous year and puts earnings per share at 0.07p against losses of 1.75p. However, the group will need High Court approval for a balance sheet restructuring before it is in a position to pay a dividend when profits allow.

Chemex, which specialises in measuring contaminants, is looking forward to next year when the lower pound is expected to help overseas sales, at present about 25 per cent of business. A move to cheaper premises is expected to bring further cost reductions.

The annual meeting, due on December 16, is intended to be adjourned until January 14 - after publication of the annual report and reconstruction proposals on December 21. The shares rose 0.25p to 3.5p yesterday.

Marling looks to expand

By OUR CITY STAFF

MARLING, the industrial fabrics group, is bouncing back from losses and has announced, with news of a restructuring, that it is looking at possible acquisitions in industrial webbing and narrow fabrics. Marling promised shareholders yesterday that acquisitions would only be pursued where they met the group's criteria of positive cash generation and enhancement of earnings per share growth.

Marling made £659,000 before tax in the six months to end-September, as anticipated at the time of the £18 million rights issue in June. This is an improvement on the £593,000 made in the previous half year and a full year loss of almost £12 million.

Unlike last year, there is no interim dividend, but Marling says it intends to pay a full-year dividend. Earnings in the half year were 0.57p a share, against 0.86p of losses in the first half of last year.

David Abel Smith, the chief executive, said he was optimistic about the group's future.

GOVERNO DE SÃO PAULO
CONSTRUINDO UM FUTURO MELHOR

THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE INVITATION TO BID 8880/92

ELECTROMECHANICAL EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR CANOAS I AND CANOAS II POWER PLANTS

The date for receipt of documentation and proposals is postponed to December 15, 1992, at same place and time.

Administrative Directorate
Open Capital Company
C.G.C. 60.933.603/0001-78

CESP

SECRETARIA DE ENERGIA E SANEAMENTO

TEMPUS

Jury still out over BET's share prospects

JOHN Clark, the no-nonsense American brought into BET 18 months ago with a mission to sort the group out, yesterday left a Damoclean sword hanging over the share's prospects.

While it is BET's "current intention" to maintain this year's total dividend at 6.5p a share, the payment does not look like being covered by likely net earnings, and it is questionable if dividends can be maintained at such levels in the following year.

Underlying pre-tax profits of £52 million for the six months ended September 26 in a time of recession, compared with an underlying £66 million performance previously, may not so look back against a published interim pre-tax outcome of £40.5 million (£70.5 million). And a sharp reduction in gearing and interest charges that fell from £22 million to £9 million is welcome progress.

The interim dividend is cut from 4.25p to 2p a share, and if BET fulfils its hopes, then the final will rise to leave the year's total unchanged. If recession took its toll on BET's core activities in the first half, then stand by. BET's view is that trading conditions will remain difficult.

Half-time profits bore an £11 million restructuring charge, and significant charges are likely in the second half. BET's aim is to find counter-cyclical profit

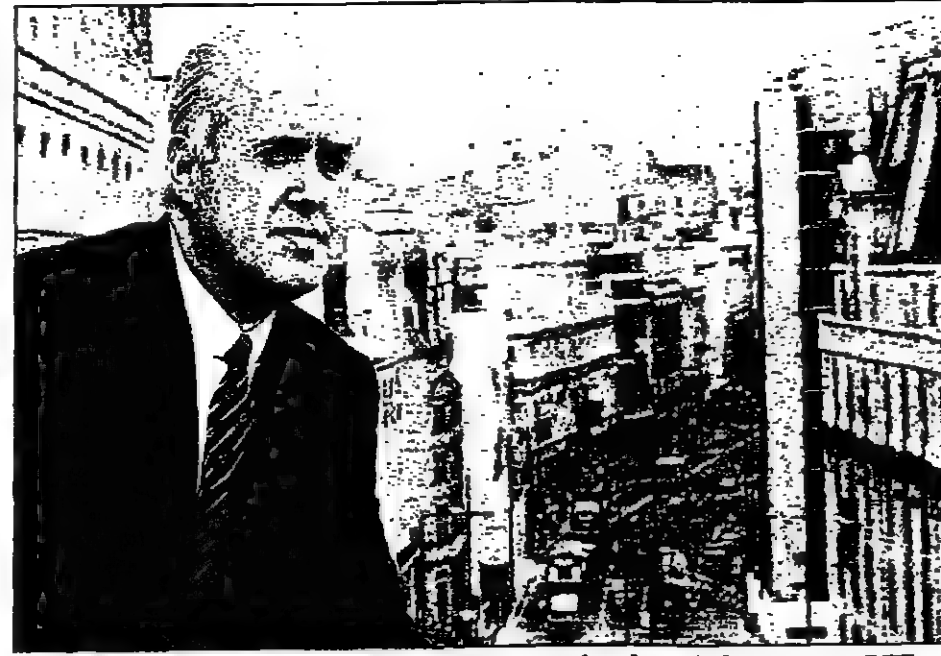
earners before the weight of gloom knocks further pounds off core activities. Operating profits from continuing operations were £61.9 million in the first half, down from £100.7 million a year ago, although up from £54.3 million earned in the six months to March 28. Asset sales go on, 18 business raising £81 million have gone, and a further seven are under sale notice. BET suffers adversely from advance corporation tax, more provisions (size unknown) will be made in the second half, and although this year's dividend could be safe, there can be no banking on the following year's payments.

Pre-tax profits of £70 million this financial year ending March would equate to net earnings of 2.9p a share, and put the shares at 92p on 31.7 times prospective earnings.

An investment now is an act of faith that the recession will soon end, or that the Clark team is smart enough to beat the recession hands down. The jury is still out, although the verdict could well be that it is far too early to buy.

Emap

AT FIRST sight, Emap seems to have wrought miracles in extracting a rise in pre-tax profits from £9.9 million to £14.8 million in the six months to October 3, bearing in mind its dependence on consumer magazines. Indeed,



Man at the top: John Clark, the no-nonsense American brought in to sort out BET

Emap reckons to have increased sales of those magazines by 4 per cent. A 10 per cent increase in cover prices has also been maintained.

Earnings per share rose 42 per cent from 4.3p to 6.1p, but Emap says that, after allowing for the benefits of the £78 million rights issue in June and £1 million of disposal profits, the underlying rise is more like 20 per cent.

Emap makes no secret that the main ingredient of its success has been the benefits of the past 18 months of cost

cuts. For the full year, analysts expect Emap should be capable of £42 million, giving earnings of 16.6p, putting the shares on a multiple of 18 times at yesterday's price of 299p, up 7p. A dividend rise from 7.228p to 8p is expected after the interim rise from 1.927p to 2.075p. It appears that Emap is trying to restore a more conservative cover on its payouts. On 8p, the yield is 3.6 per cent.

At such ratings, the market is clearly up with events at Emap, so it is interesting to

look at prospects for the following year. Here analysts believe Emap could make £49 million before tax. But the key is that having run out of cost savings, Emap will need to see some growth in advertising revenue to achieve it. Buy the shares only if you think advertising revenue is about to take off.

Fenner

FENNER, the Hull engineering group, has demonstrated just how tough times are for

UK manufacturers. With activities ranging from power transmission to industrial conveyor belts, a 25.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £5.53 million in the year to end-August was just ahead of expectations. Turnover eased 4 per cent to £197 million, with overseas activities making up 60 per cent of the total.

Profits from South Africa and America helped operating profits to edge up to £11.3 million, but rationalisation and redundancies led to a £2.27 million exceptional charge and a small loss for UK operations. Fenner is operationally geared and about £3 million of annual costs have been taken out over the past 18 months. But doubts remain over the timing of any UK upturn and future business levels from British Coal.

Strong cash generation and a favourable dollar/sterling exchange rate helped reduce borrowings by £7.3 million. Gearing fell to 40 per cent (49 per cent). Unrelieved advance corporation tax and high overseas tax wiped out earnings at 0.01p (5.47p) a share. The final dividend is halved to 2.5p, giving a reduced payout of 4.2p (8.5p) for the year.

Analysts forecast pre-tax profits up to £8.2 million this year, giving earnings of 4.4p a share and a maintained dividend. The shares, up 4p at 66p, are not cheap on 15 times prospective earnings.

Dow turns lower in early trading

New York — Wall Street shares turned lower in mid-morning after a mixed opening as the Dow industrials gave back some of the gains won on Friday amid the expiration of November options, traders reported.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 4.49 points to 3,222.77 and declining issues led advancing shares to five. □ Tokyo — The stock market was closed for a national holiday and will reopen today. The Nikkei average index was up 162.29 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 17,033.60 on Friday.

Sentiment had been brightened by the announcement that Parliament would begin debating a supplementary budget.

□ Hong Kong — Shares finished with modest advances in a dull trading session after spending the day swinging between moderate losses and gains. The Hang Seng index put on 16.79 points to close at 5,894.97.

Anthony Mak, an assistant director at Vickers Bullen, said: "There was some short-

covering in index futures, which helped to pull the spot market up, plus there was considerable institutional interest in Hong Kong Telecom."

□ Singapore — Share prices closed steady, but were off the highs as investors consolidated their positions.

The Straits Times industrial index rose 5.39 points to 1,419.21 on volume of 147.61 million shares against 138.78 million on Friday.

□ Sydney — Australian share prices closed sharply higher with the leading index notching up its biggest one-day gain since April 10, aided by heavy bargain hunting.

The All-Ordinaries index finished 36.3 points higher at 1446.4.

□ Frankfurt — Shares ended lower after an early positive start lost momentum as the market switched its attention to a weak chemicals sector.

Dealers said early gains quickly dissipated as follow-up orders failed to emerge. The Dax index ended 13.87 points down at 1,530.89. (Reuters)

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall back after reaching all-time high

SHARE prices achieved an all-time high in early trading as investors continued to reflect satisfaction on Friday's successful outcome to the Galt talks.

The FT-SE 100 index was more than 12 points up first thing, touching its highest-ever intra-trading level of 2,745.2, exceeding the previous closing peak of 2,737.8 achieved in May. But lack of interest and signs of selling on the futures market meant that prices were unable to hold on to their early gains despite a steady performance by the

Rothmans International eased 11p to 596p ahead of trading news.

ICI remained a dull market, falling 15p to £10.09. The price has been unsettled by a bearish circular from Smith New Court expressing concern about the group's proposed demerger. Smith's valuation on the proposed demerger has been calculated lower than other estimates and has helped to increase concern about the wisdom of such a move in the current economic climate.

Thorn EMI remained a nervous market ahead of today's interim figures, touching 760p before closing 5p lighter at 775p. Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of about £90 million compared with £94.9 million for the corresponding period, but there is likely to be a dilution of earnings following the acquisition of Virgin's Music business.

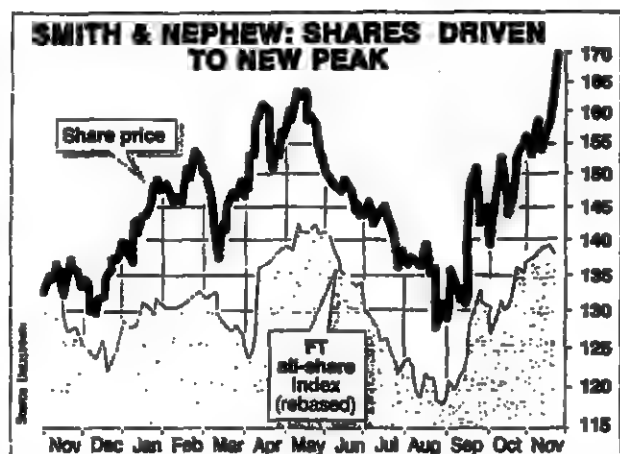
Evode, the coatings supplier, lost 1p to 90p. It is the target of an unwanted bid from Wassall, the industrial conglomerate, valuing it at 80p a share. BZW is selling claims to hold on to to Evode and await a higher offer from Wassall of 100p a share.

Wassall formed 5p to 193p. Shares of Smith & Nephew, the household products group, which includes names like Elastoplast and Nivea, were chased to a new high with a rise of 5p to 170p. Whispers in the market suggest that a stakebuilding operation in

under way prior to a full bid being made. Johnson & Johnson and Eli Lilly in America continue to be mentioned as potential suitors. But it would appear that the demand for Smith & Nephew has more to do with a fundamental change of heart by investors in the City than any impending bid.

The group has just completed its annual tour of meetings with institutional shareholders and appears to have made a favourable impression with them about prospects. Some parts of the business are performing better than others, but a revival of economic conditions would see the group firing on all cylinders.

Analysts are forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits for the current year from £132.4 million to £141 million followed by £156 million in 1993.



group, tumbled 20p to 92p after reporting a drop in half-year pre-tax profits from £71.5 million to £40.5 million and a cut in the dividend. The group blamed the recession. John Clark, chief executive, said that further restructuring costs would hit second-half results.

But there was cheerful news for shareholders of Emap, the newspaper and magazine publisher, where profits in the first half climbed by 50 per cent to £14.83 million. The figures were boosted by the benefits of recent acquisitions coming on stream and various cost-cutting exercises that enabled the group to withstand the downturn in advertising revenue. The shares responded with a rise of 7p to 299p.

Bardays Bank eased 5p to 351p after confirming plans to shed a further 3,000 jobs as part of a cost-cutting pro-

gramme. That brings the total number of jobs expected to be lost by the bank to 18,000 by 1996. Barclays said it needed to reduce costs and increase efficiency in an increasingly competitive market-place.

Last week Royal Bank of Scotland, 3p easier at 181p, announced 5,000 job losses. The rest of the banks also lost ground with Lloyds gained 4p to 501p, HSBC eased 6p to 527p, National Westminster 1p to 384p, TSB Group 2p to 137p, and Abbey National 4p to 359p.

Transfer Technology, the precision engineering group, advanced another 3p to 310p for a two-day gain of 26p. The group has been talking to a number of institutions recently and is expected to meet a further half-a-dozen later today. Credit Lyonnais Laine, the stockbroker, remains a buyer of Transfer Technology despite downgrading profits within the past month from £14.4 million to £13 million to take into account short-term working at Ford. But despite this Laine is continuing to forecast earnings growth of 15 per cent for the current year and 1993.

Dagenham Motors, the vehicle distribution group, tumbled 25p to 78p after warning that profits in the second half were likely to fall short of City expectations. The group blamed short-term working and redundancies at Ford affecting sales at its biggest dealership in Dagenham. The

abolition of car tax and price reductions from manufacturers has hit the value of used Motors. The news also hit Lex Service, 6p lower at 230p.

Locas Industries enjoyed another early burst of speculative buying before losing ground to finish all-square on the day at 121p. In the past few weeks, there has been persistent talk about a bid from the likes of T2 Group, 5p lower at 282p, Siebe, 1p firmer at 369p, and Mannesmann, the German industrial group. But a spokesman for the company said yesterday:

"Any bid would be defended ferociously".

Vickers, which includes the Rolls-Royce luxury car maker, fell a further 4p to 81p amid talk of a possible rights issue. Rolls-Royce sales have fallen dramatically because of the recession and the group recently lost a lucrative Middle East order for its Challenger tank. Analysts are becoming increasingly concerned that the group may turn to shareholders soon for extra funds.

MICHAEL CLARK

EC wants tighter bank rules

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner for competition, told finance ministers in Brussels that new single market rules on banking controls should be made tighter if BCCI-style fiascos are to be avoided.

Sir Leon said four enquiries into the collapse of BCCI supported the sort of rules coming into effect across the European Community.

Sir Leon said the reports all agreed with the EC's second banking directive, which supports home country controls over banks. In simple terms, this means that a British bank's affairs outside Britain will be controlled by British regulatory authorities.

He urged that aspects of EC law should be tightened. "Supervisors should be empowered to withdraw or revoke a licence for regulated financial institutions if they belong to an opaque group structure which make supervision of the institution ineffective or impossible."

He also advised against allowing banks to have their head offices outside their states of incorporation and asked that rules should be amended so that auditors and supervisors co-ordinate more in their banking enquiries.

Bloom to make way for Esfandi at loss-making Dwyer property group

BY DEREK HARRIS

DESMOND Bloom, the flamboyant developer who in six years built the Dwyer property group into a business worth at its peak nearly £50m, is stepping down as chairman and chief executive of the now loss-making company.

He is being replaced by another leading figure in the property world, Joey Esfandi, who becomes chief executive. Mr Bloom, who has a three-year contract, is getting a direct pay-off of about £250,000, but the total remuneration is understood to be about £400,000.

Mr Esfandi, currently chief executive of the private Winglaw property group, pledged to return Dwyer, a quoted company, back to profitability and to restore the dividend.

There would be "stringent cost-cutting and active management of the portfolio", said Mr Esfandi, who has a reputation as a man who makes assets sweat.

Winglaw has a 15 per cent stake in Dwyer and Mr Esfandi said: "We have achieved board representation in order to protect and enhance our investment in the company."

Anthony Kirwan, who has been a member of the Dwyer board since 1985, takes on the



Building up Dwyer: Peter Andrews, left, and Joey Esfandi

non-executive chairmanship of the group.

Peter Andrews, a Winglaw director, is also joining the Dwyer board. He said: "There is a good prospect of getting into a break-even situation at Dwyer during the current financial year."

Next month Dwyer is expected to report a loss in the year to September of about £1.4 million.

Dwyer put through a capital reconstruction last April with a round of cost-cutting. The group's administrative expenses in the past financial year are believed to have been in the region of £1.5 million, a reduction of just over 10 per cent on the previous year.

A Dwyer company state-

ment yesterday said that despite current property conditions the group remained in "a sound financial position".

The statement went on: "Conditions in the property market have remained extremely depressed and in the absence of property dealing opportunities the directors have decided that the costs associated with Mr Bloom, whose primary duty was the active management of the portfolio, can no longer be justified."

But it praised Mr Bloom's "outstanding contribution". He had been "the driving force" to the group's development since property activities started in 1986, it said.

The new plan for Dwyer

involves the closing of its Mayfair headquarters. Mr Esfandi has also indicated he will be cutting back salary levels, including his own.

Dwyer's share price once stood at 400p but has latterly slumped below the 20p level. Yesterday it was trading mainly at 18p.

The Dwyer property portfolio includes office blocks in the South East and also shopping centres, among them the Abbeycentre in Belfast. Winglaw has been reducing its role in office development but has a number of housebuilding ventures; it has approximately £13 million in net assets against nearly £40 million at its peak.

In a recent deal, Winglaw has been involved with Japanese interests in developing State House at High Holborn in central London.

Winglaw has also had its problems, however. It fell victim to the Robert Maxwell empire which had taken a 20 per cent stake in the group. A stalled property transaction involving Maxwell left Winglaw with a number of properties and this has meant a write-off of about £10 million.

Mr Esfandi said Dwyer and Winglaw would continue to be run independently and that there would be no conflict of interest.

Food stores link up in consortium

BY JON ASHWORTH

A GROUP of medium-sized food retailers including Budgens and Circle K has joined forces to create a consortium that will rank as Britain's sixth-largest supermarket chain.

Budgens alone estimates that membership of the new Central Buying Company, which begins operating on January 1, will increase its product lines by a third in 1993.

The CBC will pool the resources of medium-sized independent chains and use the extra muscle to negotiate more favourable buying terms.

John von Spreckelsen, the chief executive of Budgens, has been the driving force behind the creation of the CBC, which is a subsidiary of the National Independent Supermarket Association, known as Nisa Today's.

The seven key members of the consortium are: Booths, Budgens, Circle K, Grandways, Londis, Nisa and Walter Wilson.

Other members of Nisa Today's, including the Europa food chain in London, will join in places. Together, they embrace 2,100 stores serving 10 million customers a week and enjoying annual sales of £3 billion.

RISER:		DIPPER:	
Nat Aust Bank	328p (+15p)	Vardon (K)	46
Base	575p (+10p)	Wetherpoon (J.D.)	173
SKF 'B'	775p (+12p)	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Wellcome	1036p (+12p)	Haemocoil n/p (150)	55
Lloyds Abbey	384p (+21p)	Prime People n/p (2)	1
Refuge	725p (+11p)	Property Trust n/p (25)	1
Thomson Corp	725p (+10p)	Roxspur n/p (10)	2
Tipton	256p (+18p)	Closing Prices Page 27	
Vibropant	57p (+10p)		
Laporte	833p (+15p)		
ADT	500p (+40p)		
Fairway Group	477p (+19p)		

Beta Global Emg C (100)	97	Vardon (K)	46
Dorling Kindersley (163)	238	Wetherpoon (J.D.)	173
Foreign & Co PEP Low 712	102	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Jos Holdings Capital	30	Haemocoil n/p (150)	55
Jos Holdings Income	91	Prime People n/p (2)	1
Jos Zero Div P	109	Property Trust n/p (25)	1
Linx Printing Techs (130)	148	Roxspur n/p (10)	2
Tepnel Diagnostics (128)	195		
Trinity (128)	153		

THE TIMES RENTALS

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From rearguard to vanguard

With one bound, the Auditing Practices Board has leapt from the rearguard in the debate over corporate governance to the vanguard of reform. Its paper on *The Future Development of Auditing* reverses the traditional defence that the public expects too much of auditors. It concludes that auditors are largely to blame for the expectations gap and that they should close it by taking responsibility for what investors and the wider public want them to do. The proposals are sufficiently ahead of the game to pre-empt suggestions from elsewhere of new elements in company accounts that the auditors would have to vet.

The more radical thinking comes less in these ambitious and impressive proposals than in the ideas of how companies and the profession might be governed, which are intended to reopen debate. These represent the surfacing on an undercurrent of private thinking in the profession and also, perhaps, the choice of non-accountants to lead this agenda-setting. If anything like these proposals are accepted, the auditing arm of accountancy firms would become the engine of their growth instead of loss-leader. Accountants would have a strong argument for limiting their exposure to spiralling liability claims, and would see their combination of advice and audit for the same company retained.

No wonder leaders of the profession rushed to praise the initiative. It may seem radical, but Bill Morrison of KPMG, the chairman of the APB, is a man they can trust. The possibility of audit governance being brought together in something like the Financial Reporting Council operates for setting and enforcing accounting standards, perhaps even becoming part of the FRC, seems to hold few terrors. The key to the APB's agenda, however, is that it requires much greater reform elsewhere. In particular, it sees the reliance of the initial Cadbury proposals on a greater role for non-executive directors as inadequate and points towards some form of two-tier board as the most logical way to bring shareholders' influence to bear within companies. Others must pick up that hot potato.

Vanishing trade

Although October's trade gap was slightly narrower than expected, the Treasury will doubtless be relieved by the temporary disappearance of the monthly trade figures between January and July next year. Because of the abolition of Europe's fiscal frontiers, information on intra-European trade will not be ready for publication until the middle of next year. The hiatus could not have been better timed.

That is precisely the time when the notorious "J-curve" effect of devaluation will be doing its greatest damage to Britain's trade balance, initially boosting the sterling value of imports (most of which are priced in foreign currencies). The competitive benefits for export and import volumes will come through only six to nine months later. How convenient that full trade figures will disappear during precisely the scary period before the "J-curve" turns up.

Better still, the absence of figures for intra-European trade should temporarily suppress the symptoms of the impending recession in Germany and continental Europe on British exporters. No news will not, however, be entirely good news. The Central Statistical Office will continue publishing monthly figures for Britain's trade outside Europe throughout next year. But the figures will all be in money terms, with no estimates of export and import volume so beneficial early effects of devaluation on trade volumes will not be evident. Meanwhile, the disagreeable operation of the J-curve will be all too visible in the value of Britain's trade outside Europe.

Wolfgang Münchau says that despite the latest realignment it is only a question of when, not whether, Italy rejoins the ERM

Nothing fuels expectations of a realignment in the exchange-rate mechanism more than a realignment itself. This only too familiar tale unfolded again yesterday, a day after the devaluation of the peseta and the escudo, when the markets put the boot into the Irish punt and the Danish krone. Ireland's decision to raise overnight rates to an absurd level of 30 per cent to defend the indefensible, gave rise to an eerie sense of déjà vu: the protagonists may have changed, but the mad game remains the same.

One might want to think that Britain and Italy must be glad not to have to put up with such speculative pressures, after their currencies were suspended on Black Wednesday. This is certainly true for Britain, where fiscal and monetary policies have been relaxed substantially since.

This is not true for Italy, where there has been no up side, no cutting of rates, no relaxation in policy. The only conceivable good to have come from the lira's departure from the ERM was that it may have provided further proof, if any was needed, about the dire necessity to accept the economics of austerity. In any other respect, Italians look back at Black Wednesday in anger. It is, therefore, no surprise that the Italian government wants to see the lira rejoin the system as soon as possible.

There were some suggestions that if all goes well, the lira's return could even happen next month. Within the Bank of Italy, a marginally greater degree of caution prevails, but even there the return of lira is thought to be no more than two or three months away.

Yesterday, Piero Barucci, the Italian treasury minister, said that the realignment will probably postpone the return of the lira to the ERM. The fault was not with the system as such, but with "the way in which it is managed".

Yet, in view of the considerable political uncertainties that may come to bear on the government next year, proponents of a return to the ERM argue that Italy's unhappily floating currency would "miss the boat" if it waited too long.

Some recent events appear to argue in favour of speed. In December, some important policies will be put in place. The Italian parliament will approve the 1993 budget, little more than a formality after the Senate voted the week before last to approve the core of the package. The most important aspect is the £193,000 billion (£45 billion) austerity package of tax increases and spending cuts. By

Italy eager not to miss the ERM boat with its floating currency



Growth move: ERM re-entry at a low level would give Italian farmers a competitive advantage over their French counterparts

December, Italy will also have received approval for an EC loan of 8 billion ecu (£6.6 billion). As part of its carrot and stick policy towards Italy, the EC has made approval of the loan conditional upon the passing of the austerity budget.

A number of other factors will have helped as well. The mark has weakened considerably since Black Wednesday. The markets believe that a German recession is certain, and this may cause the Bundesbank into cutting interest rates. While this all amounts to a somewhat facile analysis of the German domestic situation, there can be little doubt that, on the margin, the ERM operates better when Germany's economy is in recession than when it is overheating.

But whatever the Italians wish to do, it is difficult to see how the lira can return to the ERM without the full support of the Bundesbank. This will not prove much of an obstacle, provided that the rate at which the lira rejoins the system is considered to be "realistic". Here, too, there is reason for some optimism.

One of the Bundesbank's favoured indicators of whether an ERM currency trades at a sustainable level is the relative stability of the exchange rate adjusted for by purchasing power parities (PPP). The use of PPPs is no doubt controversial. The method that the Bundesbank seems to favour is as follows: the starting point is set at January 1987, the time of the last ERM realignment prior to September. The choice of the starting point is crucial, since one can prove almost

anything if one chooses a convenient enough point. The other main ingredient in the formula is the rise in prices of tradeable goods, thereby excluding most untradeable services whose relative prices are irrelevant with respect to the exchange rate.

The analysis shows that the French franc and the Benelux currencies have remained stable against the mark throughout the period, essentially because of similar rates of inflation, while the lira and sterling have not. It is on the back of this analysis, though probably not exclusively, that the Bundesbank had thought of sterling, the lira and the peseta as depreciation candidates, while it considered the French franc as appropriately valued.

The crucial point is that if one uses this method of PPP/exchange rate adjustment, suspension of both lira and sterling has effectively done the magic trick. The statistics show that the current lira and sterling exchange rates are just about right in PPP-adjusted terms. They would suggest a tradeable goods PPP (1987) rate for sterling of DM2.45 to the pound, and for the lira of L855 to the mark, both close to their current trading levels.

If one takes the PPPs seriously, one can arrive at two conclusions. First, since the free market has resulted in the "correct" exchange rate, a currency is better off outside the system, especially in the absence of clear economic convergence between the

ERM members. This view suggests that if one wanted to move towards a system of fixed, or quasi-fixed exchange rates, convergence should be the precursor for, rather than the result of, such a policy. Since Italy is only just embarking on a most painful course aimed at producing economic convergence, it would therefore be better to wait until a time when inflation and budget deficits are stabilised at German levels.

If one dismisses this argument as too laissez-faire, as it will no doubt be dismissed in Italy, then one has little choice but to look for the "correct" exchange rate, a concept that would make advocates of free-floating shudder.

The difficulty is that if one anticipates that Italy and Spain will continue to suffer from higher inflation than Germany or France, then it may be desirable to build a tolerance margin into the chosen central rate, which would allow them to deflate to the "correct" level in a certain period of time. It would, therefore, be preferable to choose a "false" rate, which over time will become the "correct" rate, rather than vice versa.

It is on this particular point that there exists a note of disagreement between the Germans and the French. The French government wants to avoid cheap Italian imports, especially of agricultural goods such as wine, and hence opposes moves to lock the lira permanently into a low level, which would give Italian companies and farmers a systematic competitive advantage. Germany,

less concerned with Italian imports, wants to avoid another ERM crisis and the need to risk its own money supply in order to bail out other ERM members. The Bundesbank, therefore, would prefer to see the lira devalued further. Since its diplomatic dispute with Norman Lamont in September, Germany's central bank is quite understandably reluctant to be drawn into speculation about devaluation potential for any particular currency.

But it would be astonishing if the Bundesbank did not prefer a further lira devaluation to, say, L900, compared with a present rate of just over L860. In all these deliberations there exists a genuine dilemma: one needs to allow some flexibility for future divergences, and at the same time one does want to allow so much room as to encourage such divergence and distort flows.

Most Britons have reacted with relief and gratitude that all this talk about "correct" exchange rates has been pushed off the agenda. But if Italy rejoins the ERM, as is certain; if the Greek drachma joins next year, as is probable; and if Britain and Denmark ratify the Maastricht treaty, as is possible, then Britain and sterling will again look isolated.

German interest rates will by then be considerably lower than they are today, and the temptation to sneak back into the system, however inconceivable this may sound today, could simply be irresistible.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Design Council aims to make British manufacturing great again

From the Director General of The Design Council

Sir, The Confederation of British Industry's proposals to make British manufacturing industry more competitive are both far reaching and comprehensive, and include a number of areas in which the Design Council is already working to improve the competitive performance of British industry.

In particular, the Confederation of British Industry states that it should be a corporate priority "to recognise that innovation in its widest sense will differentiate between those companies which succeed and those which do not".

Our aim at the Design Council is to help British industry develop better products through the total design process, since it is only through design and innovation that British manufacturers can once again produce the added value products that are truly competitive in world

markets. The Confederation of British Industry also identifies as a priority the need "to work more closely with the education community and academia, reinforcing industry/education links, communicating the excitement and rewards of a career in manufacturing".

At the Design Council, we also work to improve education and training in design and seek to establish links between the education community and manufacturing industry to ensure that our colleges produce industrial and product designers and innovators who can meet the challenges that designing for world markets will set for British industry as the economies of the world emerge from this recession.

Yours sincerely,
IVOR OWEN,
Director General,
The Design Council,
28 Haymarket, SW1.

Change in law needed to help small firms

From A. G. Hebborn

Sir, Mr Andrew McNay suggests (Pressures facing small businesses - November 17) that the government should adopt a more interventionist approach.

It is, indeed, only by legislation that the pressure by banks and the Crown on struggling businesses can be relieved - bank managers and collectors of taxes are required to act within certain guidelines.

Legislation on the following lines should persuade banks and the Crown to support small businesses in their difficulties instead of putting in the boot:

1. Any security held by a bank or other lender should not be enforced until all trade creditors have been paid in full.
2. The Crown should not be a preferential creditor for taxes.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. HEBBORN,
29 Fairacres,
Ruislip,
Middlesex.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Foreign currency account could be conversion answer

From Mr J. Hutchings
Sir, I suggest that Mrs P. Van Rappard (Bank charges and changing foreign currency cheques into sterling, November 20) should have the Canadian annuity paid into a Canadian dollar account in

Canada. She should then obtain a Visa Card on the Canadian account. The card can be used for buying goods anywhere in the world including UK. Also if she wants cash she can get sterling from any cash machine on the Visa system.

This will cost 1½ per cent extra, but that looks cheap compared with the 10 per cent she appears to be paying at present.
Yours faithfully,
J. HUTCHINGS,
20 Home Road, SW11.

Bank ignores pleas

From Mr Frederick Covins

Sir, We, my wife and I, run a small, but very successful, business and we want our bank to understand and appreciate what we do, how our income is generated, to see our backlog of work in hand, our order books, the amount of money/work awaiting collection and delivery on any given day and the efforts we make to increase that business, both in knowledge and income. Simple you'd think?

On four separate occasions over the last 12 months we have invited our bank to see for themselves and, hopefully, to stop rubbing us with letters, at £15 a time, telling us we have exceeded our overdraft (£500) - less than a week's income. Result? A deafening silence.

We even wrote to the chairman of the bank, Sir Nicholas Goodison. We received nothing, not even an acknowledgment.

This is the bank "That likes to say, YES" (TSB). No wonder the country is in recession and will stay that way until bank managers leave their ivory towers and see for themselves what is really happening at ground level, and offer their support accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK COVINS,
Pipe Elm,
Leigh Sinton,
Malvern,
Worcestershire.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New homes for Baring names

TWO months on, Baring Securities is still going through acute discomfort over the break-up of its expensively created European department. As part of 130 job losses, Barings dismissed virtually all its European team, a move described by one observer as "akin to throwing out the caviar because the fridge is full". Many first-class people left, but their talents are not being wasted. Jamie Stewart, who ran the European desk, is back with Jeremy Campbell-Lamerton, a former Barings man. They are running an emerging markets house for Inverlaid, the Mexican-owned investment banking group, moving into what is fast becoming one of the most fashionable market areas. Deane Pennick, a top salesman, joined Hoare Govett yesterday, and Andrew Fellows, former medic and pharmaceuticals salesman, joined Enskilda last week. At Barings, the rump of the Euro desk is being run by Simon Aldridge, a former Savory Milin man, whom insiders say is not an entirely popular choice. Meanwhile, the job loss fall out apparently went as far as Frankfurt where Julius Baer, the Swiss bank is said to be livid. Its German research team was scattered when Barings poached Heino Ruland, a top economist, and analyst Heike Forefett, only to let them go months later.

THE standard of numeracy among insurance companies leaves something to be desired.



"Nothing to look forward to these days"

sired. An analysis of the latest Pearl Investor Confidence Index contains the following comment: "Whereas in August only 14 per cent of respondents sought to get the highest return on their investments, this number has nearly doubled to 23 per cent in November." If only premiums nearly doubled at the same rate.

Flying high

LORD King's rival, Bernard Attali, president of Air France, has discovered a new way of making brokers do their research. In London last month, talking to City chaps at the Aviation Club, he offered a free flight on Concorde to anyone who could come up with an American airline that could beat the record of Air France, which he bragged had paid £140 million in dividends to the French government in ten years. Enter Andrew Monk, a salesman at Hoare Govett and an aviation fanatic. He dug

Shades of Bond

KROLL Associates, the financial investigator acting as sleuth for both Lord Hanson and the Kuwaiti government, tracking down Saddam Hussein's secret billions, is making every effort to distance itself from any downmarket associations its business might conjure up. Not only is it moving to Savile Row from its current HQ in the old M15 building, Leconfield House, in Curzon Street, but Ambrose Carey, one of its top men, stars in the latest issue of the magazine *Harpers & Queen*, as a sort of modern James Bond, trailed as one of Britain's most eligible bachelors. Another effort to change the Kroll image? "Not at all," says Carey, 30, 6 ft 4 ins and singled out for his blue blood and globe-trotting life-style. "It was all a big mistake and I hope to fade back into obscurity as soon as possible." Carey says he will not be availing himself of Savile Row movers when the company moves shop. "I am not a highly paid director as *Harpers & Queen* says. I am an associate director and my tailor is ex-Savile Row and very cheap," Carey insists.

Debra Isaac

مكتبة الأمل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

FT-SE VOLUMES									
Admiral 1,600	Callion 76	Land Securities 434	Soot Hydro 899	New York (midday):	FTSE Euro 100: (1038.38 (-12.91))				
Admiral-Lions 1,600	Coast Vella 1,400	Legal & Gen 332	Soot Hydro 899	Down Jones: 2231.95 (+4.59)	Brussels:				
Anglian W 372	Cm Union 1,400	Lyons Bk 2,000	Soot Power 394	S&P Composite: 425.83 (+0.82)	General: 5564.90 (+21.97)				
Anglo-Cap 715	Cornwallis 1,300	Mar 1,400	Swm Tens 4,600	Tokyo:	Paris: CAC: 4600.01 (+0.23)				
Anglo-Wagon 197	De La Rue 85	Mar 1,400	Swm Tens 4,600	Nikkei: 4000.01 (+0.23)	Zurich: S&K Gen: 391.7 (+1.81)				
Asi Foods 326	Eng China C1 588	NWC 749	Stell Trans 4,100	Hong Kong:	London:				
BAA 521	Ennerp Oil 471	NAMC Bk 3,700	Stell Trans 4,100	Hong Kong:	London:				
BAT Inds 2,100	Fluor 2,400	Nar Power 427	Stell Trans 4,100	Hong Kong:	London:				
Bechtel 1,100	FORE 586	Nimhm Tens 1,400	Stell Trans 4,100	Hong Kong:	London:				
BP 5,400	GUS A 118	P & O 584	Stell Trans 4,100	Hong Kong:	London:				
BT 2,400	Gen Acc 166	Pearson 320	Stell Trans 4,100	Hong Kong:	London:				
BTP 1,800	Gen Acc 2,800	PowerGen 368	Stell Trans 4,100	Hong Kong:	London:				
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PUBLIC
MANAGEMENT

Fine art of rent-chasing

How do you make tenants pay? Hugh Thompson looks at new council strategies

Estimates two years ago showed that at the rate Southwark Council was clawing back the £35 million it was owed in back rent it would still be chasing the money in 400 years' time. Southwark is one of ten London boroughs that are collectively owed 37 per cent of the UK's £430 million council rent arrears.

However, Southwark, and other councils, are not sitting back. In the past two years Southwark has adopted an aggressive approach.

Mike Gibson, the chair of the housing committee, says: "During the 1980s the councilors were of the extreme left variety and took the view that arrears were a sign of hardship. All evictions went through a council committee and they usually took a sympathetic view. Decisions were sometimes made for emotional not professional reasons. It became known that while the gas, electricity and telephone bills had to be paid, Southwark was a soft touch. By 1989 one in ten tenants had stopped paying. On some estates the proportion reached nearly half."

The council's policy is now to walk loudly with a big stick. Tenants are leafleted, and written to, and there are posters throughout the borough. Local radio and press advertising is used. Where necessary, bailiffs are used and evictions are now going through at about 20 a week.

The message is getting through. Rent collection is now as high as 96 per cent and the target is even higher. A dedicated central arrears team



The technique: "It is a question of commitment, pressure and getting on with people," Pauline Humphries says

has been set up and is pursuing those in arrears.

Mr Gibson says: "Those who make no effort to pay their arrears we deem as making themselves intentionally homeless. If they have children they go to a hostel. The way the housing budget is ring-fenced means we cannot afford not to collect rents."

At the present collection rate, the arrears will be wiped clean within ten years.

Surveys show that arrears are lower if property is in good condition and rents are collected door to door. However, because of the security problems, few councils now collect rents in this way. In the past ten years many of the best tenants with a clean rent book have had the right to buy.

The effect of the best tenants and the best property leaving the council house market was to make rent arrears more likely. The dismantling of the Greater London Council added to the housing problems of

councils in the capital — overnight Southwark's housing stock trebled.

One London council that has never had a rent arrears problem of any consequence is Wandsworth. The borough is run by an aggressive Conservative council, which has not only sold 40 per cent of the housing stock but for ten years has also made arrears a priority. This was achieved with the original step of moving rent arrears out of housing and into the finance department. Arrears in the borough are about £4 million.

A housing department, which has to handle repairs and neighbourhood disputes as well as rents, benefits and arrears, can find its priorities ebbing and flowing. Wandsworth's rent arrears section is headed by Pauline Humphries, the chief income officer. She says: "It is all a question of commitment, pres-

sure and getting on with people. I notice that our arrears go up in the summer when more officers are on holiday."

"Maybe we have a reputation of being hard but fair but that is fine if it makes tenants think twice. Once you start to let it slide it is difficult to retrieve the situation. You cannot expect somebody on a low wage or unemployment benefit to pay six weeks' rent. The trick is to get to them before then. A large part of our job is debt counselling and helping tenants to claim their benefits."

One of the advantages of being on top of the problem is good morale in the team. "It all comes from the will of the members," Mrs Humphries says. "They have told us what they want done and left us to get on with it. Everybody in the team has a target."

However, the pressure is unwavering. Half Wandsworth's 24,000 tenants are in

some arrears, mostly under three weeks, and the slightest slip-up could create the kind of black hole from which Southwark is trying to escape.

The expected help of the courts is not forthcoming. At a recent London Housing Unit seminar, entitled "Collecting the rent: new initiatives and good practice in rent arrears management", speakers from the hardest-hit boroughs of Lambeth, Hackney and Southwark complained that the county courts had made bizarre decisions as councils tried to evict tenants who refused to pay.

"We must never forget there are families with real problems," Mrs Humphries adds, "not least those who are made redundant. They often hope to get a new job immediately, but because they do not sign on they lose benefits, and they get into arrears."

"We must keep educating our tenants about how to get through the benefits jungle."

Don McGregor, who now heads RIPA International for his new parent, Capita.

This failure to move with the times showed in the institute's adherence to a structure that now looks antiquated. The body was governed by "a small council of distinguished practitioners and experts in public administration", which met quarterly and vested powers in a finance and general purpose committee. The closure has left creditors £280,000 out of pocket. Topical themes such as accountability appear to have passed the institute by.

The nearest to an admission of mismanagement is a confession in the 1991 annual report that the institute had underprovided on its pensions liabilities by £200,000 and on overheads by £79,500. Invest-

An object lesson in mismanagement

The royal institute that was supposed to show the way is about to slip quietly into the history books

The institute that was set up to promote good management practice across the public sector is expected to slip quietly into liquidation next month.

Little has been said about the apparent inability of the Royal Institute of Public Administration (RIPA) to manage its affairs and spearhead the debate about public management. There are sus-

picious that its failure to capitalise on its position as the only non-aligned body to draw members from across the public sector is symptomatic of failures in public sector management generally.

The administrative receivers have noted the irony of including topics such as managing services effectively and income generation in the institute's seminar programme. Michael Old-

ham, of the accountancy firm Smith & Williamson, claims the institute could not manage the trading activities necessary to stay afloat. Mr Oldham says: "The managers went about things in a way that was not entirely commercial and which probably reflected their own backgrounds in the public sector."

Don McGregor, the former head of the institute's overseas training and consultancy division, agrees. Its passing was a "great sadness but no great surprise", he says. Despite repeated talk of revivifying its revenue base, the institute had been making losses for years.

Crisis point was reached in April, when the bank lost confidence and the institute was forced to raise cash by selling its overseas division, which accounted for 80 per cent of its £2.6 million turnover. A month later, as the 1991-2 accounts were closed,

it became obvious that the year's trading had been worse than expected and that even with sharply reduced liabilities the company was insolvent.

"To me the irony is that there is a lot that is positive and dynamic going on in public sector management, yet I do not think the institute changed much since being set up in the 1920s," says Don

McGregor, who now heads RIPA International for his new parent, Capita.

This failure to move with the times showed in the institute's adherence to a structure that now looks antiquated. The body was governed by "a small council of distinguished practitioners and experts in public administration", which met quarterly and vested powers in a finance and general purpose committee. The closure has left creditors £280,000 out of pocket. Topical themes such as accountability appear to have passed the institute by.

The nearest to an admission of mismanagement is a confession in the 1991 annual report that the institute had underprovided on its pensions liabilities by £200,000 and on overheads by £79,500. Invest-

ments in staff and equipment "might not have been undertaken if the true financial position had been accurately revealed last year", the chairman's statement admits.

Colin Farrington, the director of the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation, says: "There were clearly some serious administrative errors." However, Michael Clarke, the chief executive of the Local Government Management Board and chairman of the institute since December 1990, prefers to present the institute as a victim of external events. The Gulf war, for example, led to a cut in overseas subscribers for UK-based training courses.

This was compounded by a failure to retain the interest of 850 remaining individual members from central and local government, the health service, executive agencies, universities, quangos and charities. "The institute did not keep up sharply enough with changes in the public sector itself," Mr Clarke concedes — notably in maximising its income. However, the institute is unlikely to sink without trace. Many in the public sector remain convinced of the value of a national institution devoted to the good practice of public administration.

Mr Farrington says: "Such exchanges of good practice are all the more necessary at a time when people at all levels within the public sector face managerial challenges that seem to pose a threat to the whole ethos of the public services in which they have been trained."

NICKY WILMORE



Michael Clarke: a victim of events?

Accountancy Personnel

AUDIT PROJECT MANAGER EAST ANGLIA
£25,000 + PRP + CAR

OUR CLIENT
Norwich Systems and Accounting (NSA) is the trading arm of Norwich Health Authority for Internal Audit, accountancy and systems. Their well established internal audit service is at the forefront of developments in public sector internal audit and consultancy and is entering a new and exciting period of change. It has a national reputation for using leading edge techniques and producing high quality results and added value to its customers in a high profile environment.

NSA provide the full range of internal audit services to client throughout East Anglia, including seven NSA Trusts.

THE ROLE
Working in the Directorate of Audit and consultancy Services you will play a major role in the delivery of a modern and comprehensive audit service to NSA clients.

THE CANDIDATE
We are seeking a qualified CCAB Accountant who has a track record of success in high level computer audit work. Applications from qualified OICA and MIAA with relevant experience will also be considered.

You will possess a sound grasp of modern internal audit practices and be in tune with 'state of the art' thinking regarding the development and application of information systems and technology, with the ability to manage staff and complex audit assignments including financial and operational reviews.

For further information please telephone our Consultant Sue Devine on 0908 861707 or write, enclosing a full CV to Accountancy Personnel, Silbury Court, 354 Silbury Boulevard, Writton Keynes, Bucks MK9 2AP by 4th December 1992.

NSA is an equal opportunities employer and has retained the services of Accountancy Personnel's Public Sector Division. Only applications received through Accountancy Personnel will be considered.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

THE TIMES
Public Management Appointments appear every Tuesday in The Times.
Recruitment Team on 071 481 1065

Finance Manager
Up to £30,000

Thames Valley University provides a stimulating environment for staff who share our vision of equality and social justice. We are now looking for an experienced Finance Manager. The role encompasses:-

- Managing the development of effective reporting systems and setting up costing systems for courses
- Financial reporting to heads of schools and other budget holders
- Preparing the annual plan and year end accounts and ensuring compliance with external standards and regulations

Ideally you will be professionally qualified with 5 years of both financial and management accounting experience. You should have the ability to supervise and advise on a broad range of financial matters.

Please apply in writing with a full cv, quoting ref: FM1, to Gloria Beattie, Assistant Personnel Officer.

Closing date: 3 December 1992

Wellington Street, Slough, Berks SL1 1YG

TVU is committed to the promotion of equality and social justice.

Come Together With ITC!
Are you young and flexible?
Do you have a diploma and experience as a nurse? Are you interested in a temporary job at one of the public hospitals in Hamburg/Germany?
We, the ITC, are looking for experienced nurses/medical staff of all kinds, specialization in any sector would be appreciated, e.g. anaesthesia, intensive care, etc.
Housing will be provided.
If you are interested in a well-paid job, do not miss this opportunity and act now!
Send your application to:
ITC Industrial Technical Consultants GmbH
Neuer Wall 75
2000 Hamburg 36
Germany

DIocese of WINCHESTER
DIOCESAN SECRETARY
Applications are invited from practising lay communicants of the Church of England for the post of Diocesan Secretary as the present holder of the post is retiring. To start Autumn 1993.
Applicants must be able to demonstrate experience and skill in management, administration, communications and finance. Relevant professional qualifications will be an advantage. Salary within General Synod Senior Principal Scale.
Application forms and job description from Diocesan Secretary, Church House, 9 The Close, Winchester, Hants. SO23 9LS. Telephone (0962) 844644.
Closing date for applications 26th January 1993.

WAIKATO HOSPITAL NORTH ISLAND - NEW ZEALAND
CARDIOPULMONARY TECHNICIAN

Waikato Hospital is a regional base hospital serving a population of more than 500,000. The hospital seeks applications from experienced and qualified cardiology or cardiopulmonary or physiological measurement technicians for a one year contract with possible further renewal.

The cardiology/respiratory department supports five cardiologists and three respiratory physicians and undertakes a full range of diagnostic cardiological and respiratory investigations. The department also supports a cardiac surgical unit in the hospital.

Applicants must have completed requirements for either New Zealand Certificate of Sciences, Associate of Society of Cardiopulmonary Technicians or Higher National Diploma or equivalent.

The successful applicants will have had experience in cardiac catheterisation, holter monitoring, cardiac stress testing and respiratory function testing including spirometry. Experience in cardiac pacing and angioplasty may also be desirable, though not essential.

An approximate base salary range of \$NZ28,000 - \$NZ35,000 is offered dependent on the level of experience of the successful applicant.

The successful applicant will be required to take part in an on call roster. Job description and application form may be obtained from:

The Personnel Officer - Support Services
Waikato Hospital
Private Bag 3200, Hamilton
North Island, New Zealand
Telephone: 64-7-839 8674
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CLASSICAL page 30
Shura Cherkassky, 81
and still going strong,
storms through a recital
of virtuoso piano music

ARTS

FILM page 31

Divas of the big screen:
opera singers who went
into films, assembled
in an NFT retrospective



Orpheus calls, but Britain isn't listening

Has the musical world gone mad? We all agree that Henry Purcell was a great British composer. In fact in the 250 years between William Byrd laying down his pen and Edward Elgar taking up his, Purcell was the only musical genius this country produced. Admittedly, the British were preoccupied elsewhere at the time conquering the world; inventing trains. Even so, it is a dismal record. So it is right that the 300th anniversary of Purcell's death should be marked by a dusting down of odes and anthems. But wait a minute. That anniversary does not fall until 1995, yet the Great and Good have already invented something called the Purcell Tercentenary Trust, and the party appears to have started.

Last weekend at the South Bank three concerts and a workshop set the jamboree in motion. Tied in with that, Radio 3 is featuring Purcell's incidental theatre music—hundreds of splendid, unplayed tunes—this week. Next November will see a similar weekend based around Roger Norrington conducting *The Fairy Queen*, and in November 1994 more of the same with John Eliot Gardiner conducting *King Arthur*.

Finally, in the tercentenary year itself, there will be a week of Purcell performances at the South Bank, hundreds of concerts around the country, a Westminster Abbey tribute on the anniversary (November 21), and commissions for 12 composers to write works for viol consort inspired by Purcell's own wild and wonderful fantasias. Compared with all that, last year's Mozart bicentenary blitz may begin to seem like the model of restraint, though there are no plans as yet to sell chocolate effigies of Purcell.

The odd thing is, it's all desperately needed—every last false relation, scotch-grip and ground-bass of it. Purcell's reputation is not so much high or low as hardly measurable at all. We know his contemporaries thought him a

MUSIC: Richard Morrison
joins the tercentenary party
for Henry Purcell, even though
it has begun three years early

genius. "Orpheus Britannicus" they called him, after his death. We appreciate that Handel's discovery of Purcell's music revolutionised his own choral writing. One had only to hear the sonorous finale to *Hail! Bright Cecilia* or the ebullient triple-time airs of the *Dioclesian* masque, both sprucely performed by the Orchestra and Choir of the Age of Enlightenment under Gustav Leonhardt last weekend, to recognise what impressed Handel.

And we know that Purcell was at the heart of cultural life during a very scientific piece of research, perhaps, but it seemed symbolic. One obstacle to modern appreciation is the fact that Purcell worked in media that we don't value highly today. He wrote no operas apart from *Dido*, but semi-operas and masques: ornately staged allegories mixing spoken dialogue and music. Neither fish nor fowl, they have largely been avoided by opera and drama companies alike. And his superb verse-anthems are usually too long for modern use.

Raising awareness of these hidden Purcellian treasures is what these November weekends are about. Roger Savage's entertaining Saturday afternoon workshop, for instance, sought to put Purcell's theatre music into its stage context by juxtaposing the performances of soprano Catherine Bott and the spirited Purcell Quartet with readings from Congreve, Dryden and other contemporary playwrights. That revealed how easy it is to misunderstand Purcell. To take a droll example: would the song "Nymphs and Shepherds" have been endorsed for classroom singing with quite such enthusiasm by generations of teachers if its origins had been known? Purcell wrote it for Shadwell's play, *The Libertine*, which was as cynical a catalogue of murder and rape as was ever put together in the name of entertainment.

'Purcell's music
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capricious as
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Such workshops are fun for the specialists. But if Purcell is really to grip the nation in 1995, those same specialists must now grit their teeth, turn populist, and put some flesh and blood on Purcell's somewhat shadowy historical presence. The parallels with Mozart are fascinating. Both composers were child prodigies; both died in their mid-thirties; both were victims of court and theatre intrigues that saw less-gifted men given preference. And both wrote funeral music for powerful patrons towards the end of their lives (the Requiem by Mozart, the Queen Mary Funeral Music by Purcell) that seemed to prefigure their own deaths. But whereas Mozart's life and death have been the stuff of a hundred speculative biographies, few scholars so far are making the connections between Purcell's life and his art.

Similarly, few performers seem yet to have worked out strong interpretative ideas about his music. They know, of course, all about period style: that was evident at the weekend. And such characterful soloists as Michael Chance and David Wilson-Johnson did capture the wit of the songs.

But there was a pristine primness about the performances which suggested that Purcell is not yet in the players' bones. That is understandable. His music can be as capricious as a dinghy in a swirling wind: one moment smooth and ingratiating like a Vivaldi slow movement; the next, spiky, unruly and dissonant. A love song may suddenly be spiced by a bizarre clash of inner parts; or a boisterous jig, anarchic and archaic, unexpectedly smartened up into a suave chain of sweet consonances.

This protean unpredictability is what makes Purcell so absorbing and yet so hard for performers to pin down. But the more they perform him, the more his music will yield its secrets. Perhaps it is right to start the tercentenary party now. By 1995, we may just have restored Purcell to his proper place: at the centre of British musical life.



The "Orpheus Britannicus" at the height of his fame: a 1695 portrait of Henry Purcell (painted by John Closterman or one of his school), which hangs in the National Portrait Gallery

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Honest entertainer gets the people's vote

AT FIRST sight the prime contenders for the London Film Festival's new British Feature Audience Award seemed *Peter's Friends* (comic Oxbridge Angst) or *Leon the Pig Farmer* (kosher London farce). In the event, audiences balloted after the festival's 16 British features narrowly chose Stefan Schwartz's *Soft Top Hard Shoulder*, a road movie comedy with an Italian-Scottish twang. Peter Capaldi (also the film's scriptwriter) stars as the wayward scion of

ARTS BRIEFING

an ice-cream dynasty, who is desperately trying to reach his native Glasgow by car.

"A lot of British directors are making films to entertain or inform," the 29-year-old Schwartz says, adding with commendable frankness: "I'm a shallow director, hoping to

entertain." The award, sponsored by the makers of Gold Bear, gives £10,000 towards the film's advertising and publicity costs when it enters distribution, which will be sometime next year.

Last chance...

JOHN Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* was famously inspired by a real-life incident in America in which a young black nobody charmed his way into the rich Manhattan

world of the almost-somebodies. From this promising beginning Guare built his fascinating portrait of a society of frantic achievers, notably the woman played by Stockard Channing, changed for ever by the angelic conman (Adrian Lester) who flashes across her life. The title refers to the illusory closeness of everybody on this planet. Phyllida Lloyd's swift and snappy production is at the Comedy Theatre (071-867 1111) until Saturday.

Stephen Pettitt at Huddersfield's Contemporary Music Festival

Soaked in the avant-garde

TWO days and four concerts and already I am overwhelmed by the sheer variety on offer at this year's Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. The event has become a model of intelligent planning, combining the established with the experimental and emergent, and there is now a feeling abroad that the community has become rather proud of it. Judging from abundant banners around the grey, rain-soaked town, it is certainly well aware of it. Every year several pillars support the structure of the programming, around which the festival is freely embellished. Iannis Xenakis was 70 earlier this year and his music had to be one of them, but room is also found for Franco Donatoni, Klaus Huber, Barry Guy, John Tavener, and the late John Cage. The byword is careful selection.

Or perhaps not for the English Northern Philharmonia concert on Friday in the Town Hall, for which four violently disparate works had been selected. Xenakis's *Krinoidi*, receiving its British premiere, opened the evening with its thick, elemental sounds. Its title apparently refers to a relatively innocuous sea-urchin, but the composer must have accidentally trodden on one, for if this music did indeed depict them, it was surely as monsters stirring from the deep: an overpowering mélange of obsessive, crude patterns culminated in giant overlapping cascades. I liked it.

Yet the following work caused the emotions to stir more willingly. Not that the music for David Bedford's *Stories from the Dreamtime* consisted of very much more



Iannis Xenakis, 70 this year: a festival theme

than easy effects. But this piece had been expressly written for the festival's education programme, and involved deaf and hearing children working alongside each other in groups under the guidance of the ENP's percussionists.

The youngsters made a splendid sound, evoking frogs, storms and wind, dancing eels, magpies, even the stars in Bedford's adaptation of an aboriginal creation myth with discipline, complete commitment and immense enjoyment: if anything the hearing children seemed the more tentative. Richard Stilgoe, complete with *Neighbours* accent, narrated vividly. Peter Dinklage-Jones equally vividly provided the signed version.

And after that? John Tavener's dramatic ritual *The Repentant Thief* (with Andrew Marriner as the fine clarinet soloist) and Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Three Screaming Pops*. There is no need to rehearse their fine qualities here: both were played excellently, as was the rest of the programme, under Elgar Howarth's direction.

The following day began with the Goldberg Ensemble, who offered string music which included more Xenakis (*Akroasi*, 1971), some Huber (*Alvare Vernat*, 1965), and Barry Guy's impressively spacious *Flagwalk* (1983), which collides the sonorous with the violently fragmented. There was also the winning work in the Yorkshire and Humberside Arts Young Composers' Award. The prize went to John Stringer. His *Life in the Light First Image* (the title comes from Beckett) had a pleasing shape and rhythmic definition, and that, despite an objective rather than evocative stance, gives him a firm basis for further development.

Later, Stephen Guttman gave a marvellous piano recital which ended with four rather Debussyian miniatures from Simon Holt's ongoing *Book of Colours*—two of them, the brilliant *A Shapeless Flame* and the resonant *Some Distant Chimes*, were receiving first performances—and Paul Ruders's epic *Second Sonata*, which succeeds in the difficult task of advancing an obviously traditional four movement classical form. In company other than this, John Hopkins's *Sonata* (1991) would have sounded as fine an achievement as it is.

Later still, the Tokyo International Music Ensemble whisked us to the Far East with, praise be, Japanese music that does not pander to Western traditions. After a traditional dance, Ryo-o, there was Takemitsu's indeterminate and delicate *Seasons* (1970) for shakuhachi, biwa and two percussionists, all of whom speak and perform movements. Maki Ishii's *Hiten Seido* (1981), however, spoke just as poetically.

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مكتبة الأمل

Scaling heights on stage and screen

From Geraldine Farrar to Jessye Norman, America has produced more than its share of operatic divas. Any of these who defied popular preconceptions of the prima donna (far, Italian) were inevitably wooed by Hollywood: some succumbed.

Farrar went there in 1915 and Mary Garden followed two years later: but this was before sound films, and a silent *Carmen* or *Thais* left something (not least the music) to be desired. Louise Stein, however, has devised a short season (from today until December 6) at the National Film Theatre to show off the gifts of three divas who briefly soared to movie stardom in the Thirties and Forties.

Grace Moore was the most celebrated — not least for her tantrums on set. Born in Tennessee in 1905, she first played in opera: she made her Metropolitan debut in *La Bohème* in 1928. In her most successful film, *One Night of Love* (1934), she exposed cinema-goers to such operatic highlights as "La Habanera", "Un bel di" and "Sempre libera". The sensation, though, was Moore's "Ciri-Biri-Bin" which sold in hundreds of thousands.

The NFT is also showing *The King Steps Out* (1936), a jolly Hapsburg opera with music by Fritz Kreisler. Director Josef von Sternberg made Moore do take after take of a scene which required her to milk a cow and warble at the

David Robinson
previews a season
of Thirties and
Forties films
by opera divas

same time. To her fury he cut the scene from the finished film.

Opera purists tended to view these Hollywood defectors as fallen women. When Grace Moore came to London in 1935 to sing *La Bohème*, Covent Garden was attacked for abandoning all standards. *The Times*, to its credit, defended Moore, with a leading article "Opera and Film".

"Covent Garden does the fair thing in giving Miss Moore the chance of proving that she is not a 'film star' elevated into grand opera, but an opera singer who has adventured with triumph into the films. The position is new and rather amusing. Two forms of art not usually very matey are found doing each other a good turn, the cinema getting the uplift and grand opera the publicity..."

The diminutive, French-born coloratura Lily Pons can be seen in *That Girl from Paris* (1936) and *Hitting a New High* (1937). Pons died in 1976; Moore was killed in

an aeroplane disaster in 1947.

Risë Stevens, the third of the NFT divas, is happily still living and was recently a managing director of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. The daughter of an alcoholic Norwegian travelling salesman, she owed her musical education to the determination of her mother and the faith of a battle-axe Juilliard teacher, Anna Scoen-Rene. She began her professional career in Prague, but in 1938 was put under contract by the Met, where her great roles included *Carmen*, *Cherubino* and *Octavian* in *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Oddly, it may have been her performance in *Going My Way* (1944) that first stirred the Met. This two-hanky, six-Oscar weepie, with Bing Crosby, as a melodious Catholic priest, also gives us Stevens' dark mezzo in Schubert's "Ave Maria" backed by Father Crosby's choir.

The NFT is also showing Stevens in the 1944 film *The Chocolate Soldier*, a bizarre concoction. MGM secured the rights to the music but not to the book (after Shaw's *Arms and the Man*), so grafted Oskar Straus onto Molnar's play *The Guardsman*, throwing in such incidental delights as Stevens' famously seductive "Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix" from *Samson and Delilah*.

One Night of Love opens the National Film Theatre (071-925 3252) season tonight at 8.30pm.



Singer, actress and pianist: Lily Pons in *That Girl from Paris*, showing at National Film Theatre 2, November 29 at 6.20pm



Risë Stevens: *Going My Way*, "a two-hanky, six-Oscar weepie" showing at National Film Theatre 2, December 3 at 8.30pm

GALLERIES: Angelica Kauffman was a great decorator, but was she a good painter? John Russell Taylor is unconvinced

Designed to succeed in a man's world

Doctor Johnson had some uncharitable things to say about women painters. If he ever expressed himself with equal trenchancy on women painters, his words would seem not to have been passed on to us, or at any rate not to the devotees of Angelica Kauffman: A Continental Artist in Georgian England, an ambitious commemorative show now at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery.

Which is probably just as well. It is difficult to imagine that Johnson can have thought very highly of the lady, though his friend Sir Joshua Reynolds is said once to have proposed marriage to her, and was certainly admiring enough to take her as one of the founding members of the Royal Academy, a remarkable honour, considering that, along with her contemporary Mary Moser, she was the only woman permitted to become an RA until 1922.

At the very least, Angelica Kauffman was a phenomenon. Whether she was also a very good painter is not so easy to decide. During her years in England (1766-81) she was taken seriously as a painter of classical and allegorical subjects, but now, seen in reasonable bulk, she seems, while perfectly competent, to be rather dull, given to repeating poses and expressions as though constantly referring to a slim mental stock-book.

Possibly she spread her talents



Juvenile prodigy: Kauffman's depiction of herself torn between the muses of painting and music

too thin. She was something of a juvenile prodigy, with more or less equal gifts in music and the visual arts in one of her more memorable works she depicts herself torn between the demands of two equally agitated allegorical females urging the rival claims of music and painting.

She came of a Swiss family, born in 1741 in Bregenz, and was trained by her father, a moderately successful provincial painter. By her early teens she was receiving portrait commissions of her own. She was evidently pretty and charming, and had various other essentially non-artistic advantages

to attract attention when she settled in London at the age of 25. Just previously, in Italy, she had had little success with Italian patrons, but successfully painted a variety of prominent Englishmen on the Grand Tour, and became acquainted with such visiting painters as Benjamin West and Nathaniel

Dance. These contacts stood her in good stead in England. Whether there was any truth in the gossip about her and Reynolds, his admiration for her work was clearly genuine, and she in her turn set out to produce exactly the kinds of allegorical portraits and grand classical history painting that he advocated.

But now that the style of painting Reynolds advocated is reduced to a primarily historical interest, why should Kauffman still be a familiar name? Partly, of course, because she was a successful woman in a man's world. Certainly not because of her skills as a "serious" painter, and though the Brighton show makes a valiant attempt to revive interest in that aspect of her work, it will meet with some resistance.

Much the most absorbing part of the exhibition is that devoted to Kauffman's decorative work, and the extraordinarily wide dissemination of her images through reproductive prints and their use on fabrics, ceramics and such. The insight offered into the business side of artistic success in the 18th century is fascinating. One way and another, Kauffman influenced the whole of neo-classical decorative art in 18th-century Britain, and there are many worse reasons to be remembered.

Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Church Street, Brighton (0273 713202) Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 10am-5.45pm, Sun 2-5pm, until Jan 3; closed Dec 25-26, Jan 1.

TELEVISION REVIEW by Daniel Johnson

Sex, love and the power of the Pope

The message which Kate Saunders and Peter Stanford convey in the first programme of their four-part series, *Catholics and Sex* (Channel 4, last night), is that many Roman Catholics have hang-ups about their sexuality. What, they wish to know, is the Church proposing to do about it?

There is more than one good answer to the question. The Roman Catholic Church, unlike the Church of England to which Kate Saunders apparently belongs, is not declining in numbers, and it is not clear why it should abolish tried and tested doctrines merely because people feel uncomfortable with them. The conversion of Saunders and those who think like her might well be a great prize, but not at the price of bearing false witness to God's truth.

More seriously, "hang-up" is often just another word for scruple, and the kind of sexual morality in which anything goes is not an unmixed blessing either for society or the individual. The Church has never felt obliged to follow the spirit of the time: its rejection of contraception, abortion, euthanasia, its enthusiasm for procreation and chastity are all of a piece. Catholic sexual morality must, as one priest put it, be "open to life". "We are not here to use one another," he declared. Hang-ups are a good thing if they force you to think about the consequences of your actions for other people, including the unborn.

Stanford and Saunders started from the assumption that in any conflict between Catholic orthodoxy and the conventions of their own thirty-something, middle-class, white, left-of-centre, feminist contemporaries, orthodoxy should

be on the defensive. Thus the celibacy of priests (other celibates went unmentioned) was seen as a quaint custom without scriptural foundation, distancing clergy from laity (assumed to be a bad thing).

As if to emphasise this, they contrasted their balanced and occasionally illuminating interviews of laymen, priests and seminarians with a one-sided and consistently unilluminating studio debate. A mild-mannered bishop, who received next to no support from the famous Sister Lavinia Byrne, was

'The Church's teaching on sex has actually cost it dearly in lost converts'

ranged against the Irish broadcaster Frank Delaney, presumably representing the Catholic laity. Delaney displayed his gift of the gab to some effect. He crowned his scintillating with the insight that, "with the very greatest respect" (a nod in the episcopal direction), the sacrament of confession and Catholic doctrine on sex had together given the Church unprecedented power over the most intimate details of people's lives — a power, he added, to which nobody was entitled. Sister Lavinia, too, thought it was all about "power structures" and, worse still, the rules had all been written by men.

Saunders echoed Delaney's point about the Church exercising power through controlling sexuality in her summing up, as though it were a self-evident fact. Yet the Church's teaching on sex has actually cost it dearly in lapsed adherents and lost potential converts. The imposition of celibacy on priests under Pope Gregory VII in the 11th century provoked violent and lasting hostility towards the papacy. Today Catholicism is again embattled. It will evolve, accommodate, procrastinate; but Saunders and Stanford did not persuade me that it will surrender.

ROCK: Clive Davis on the colourful life of concert promoter Bill Graham

First, you create a good vibe

Bill Graham, doyen of rock promoters, was killed in a helicopter crash in California last year. More than a year after his death, the man who was once described as "a blustering King Kong with a telephone line for an umbilical cord" is still making his presence felt. A 560-page biography, just published by Doubleday in America, contains as many intriguing anecdotes as a year's supply of "kiss 'n' tell" memoirs.

Graham, often credited as the inventor of the modern rock concert, was a driving force in the business for a quarter of a century, from his early ventures in San

Francisco at the dawn of the psychedelic era to organising the American side of the transatlantic Live Aid concert in 1985. With its stories of behind-the-scenes deals and ego-trips, Robert Greenfield's book *Bill Graham Presents* amounts to an alternative history of the rock counterculture.

An oral biography woven from interviews with Graham, his friends and one or two enemies, it captures the anything-goes atmosphere of the music industry: he once showed hundred-dollar bills under a dressing room door to persuade Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young to play an extra encore.

A bleak chapter is devoted to the atmosphere of drug-fuelled violence during Led Zeppelin's visit to Oakland in 1977, at which one of Graham's aides was beaten by members of the band's entourage. Almost as depressing are the sections on two key Sixties "happenings", Woodstock and the Rolling Stones concert at Altamont — at which Hells Angels, supposedly in charge of security, ran amok.

Graham had only a peripheral involvement in both events. He and the rest of the contributors agree that Woodstock, far from being a glorious celebration of peace and love, was actually a fiasco, with abysmal sound and co-ordination. The myth was created, they say, by the subsequent album and documentary film.

Grace Slick, lead singer with Jefferson Airplane, is her usual acerbic self: "Woodstock was a bunch of stupid slob in the mud and Altamont was a bunch of angry slob in the mud. It was all just slob in the mud."

Graham, who was born into a Jewish family in pre-war Berlin, emerges as a mixture of fan, hustler and executive with an occasionally selective memory and a fearsome temper. What set him apart, according to Greenfield, was his commitment to the ordinary concert-goer. He did much to raise the standards of concert presentation, insisting on high quality sound and lighting and the creation of a congenial atmosphere. His Fillmore West (San Francisco) and Fillmore East (New York) staged some of the most memorable concerts of the Sixties.

Graham closed the Fillmore in 1971 after claiming that rock had shed its idealism and become over-commercialised. Woodstock, he said, was the beginning of the end.



Mick Jagger embraces the late Bill Graham, backstage at an open-air festival promoted by the San Francisco entrepreneur

One of the many paradoxes of his career is that he subsequently had a hand in creating the stadium circuit, which has done so much to turn live music into an homogenised commodity.

Still, a tale in the last chapter suggests that he still had his heart in the right place, give or take a few inches. In 1989, after failing to win the contract for the Rolling Stones' tour of America, he staged the group's concert in Oakland. Watching the band in other cities, Graham saw that as soon as Jagger and Co took to the stage, the audience leapt onto their chairs, where they remained for the show.

Many people had their view blocked.

At Oakland Graham circulated handbills to the audience, asking them to stay seated. The ushers were given T-shirts with a similar message, and Graham moved along the aisles asking people to sit down. The total cost was \$6,200: the Stones were being paid \$18 million for the tour.

As there were another 32 cities still to go on the tour, one of Graham's staff asked the band's business manager if he would now print handbills for the remainder of the concerts. Came the reply: "What for? We're sold out."

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Illustrations (detail), late 17th C. Robert Heilbrunn, 21st-century Private Collection

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LAW

● LAWYERS IN THE
TELEVISION PICTURE 34

Tony Bland, the Hillsborough crash victim, with his parents Alan and Barbara: the court case has helped to clarify a difficult area of law

The pain of judgment

Alexander McCall Smith assesses the significance
of recent cases concerning life-and-death issues

THIS has been a dramatic year for life-and-death issues. The court decision to permit a non-consensual Caesarean delivery, the conviction of Dr Nigel Cox for attempted murder and last week's judgment on the persistent vegetative state have all focused the legal spotlight on some of the most harrowing areas of medical law.

Has anything changed as a result of this flurry of judicial activity? Probably not a great deal, although the last of these decisions, the Tony Bland case, has helped to clarify what was until last week a somewhat murky area of the law.

Doctors treating Mr Bland will have to wait several weeks until they can take steps that will lead to their patient's death. David Venables, the Official Solicitor, has acknowledged the stress entailed in bringing an appeal and thereby prolonging the issue, but feels quite understandably that this is a matter of considerable public importance that must be tested in a higher court.

All along, he has done exactly what his office requires of him: to speak for one who is not in a position to speak for himself. The argument his counsel put before the court is not to be lightly dismissed. He said that there is a very strong presumption in favour of life, and that this presumption should be overridden only when the suffering of the patient is such that further prolongation of life is not in his best interest. A person in a persistent vegetative state, he argued, is incapable of suffering and is therefore entitled to basic nursing care.

This is where the really significant disagreement arose. Mr Bland is being kept alive by the provision of nas-

gastric nutrition and hydration; he is being fed artificially. If this artificial feeding is regarded as medical treatment, then its withholding becomes a question of whether it is legitimate to withhold medical treatment from people whose prospects are as poor as his.

The answer, of course, is that it is quite acceptable, legally and morally, to withhold treatment from those for whom the treatment would be unproductive. One does not have to give antibiotics to a patient whose future quality of life is extremely low and whose life expectancy is strictly limited.

Nor need doctors operate in such a case, the view being that there may come a time at which the appropriate response is to stand back and let nature take its course rather than to struggle heroically to keep somebody alive.

If artificial feeding is described as medical treatment, then both the ethical and the legal issues largely fall away. If, however, it is seen as no more than the provision of

the basic care to which everybody is entitled, even those who are at the very end of a painful and distressing illness, then its withholding becomes very much more dubious.

Will it be possible to withhold basic care from those whose lives we feel have become a burden to them and to others?

In his pleadings, the Official Solicitor asked whether we were not in danger here of stepping on to a very slippery slope. This probably meant that he saw the permitting of the withholding of treatment in such cases as the start of a process by which we distinguish between those lives that are worth the minimum care (nursing and feeding) and those that we deem should not get even that.

The judge's response to this was to emphasise again and again that in his judgment the persistent vegetative state was special, that in such cases the part of the brain that controls cognition was simply no longer operating.

As he said at one point in his decision, there is in this case no evidence of a "working mind"; to the parents and the family in question, the patient is dead. "His spirit has left him and all that remains is the shell of his body."

In such a case, why should there be a continued effort to keep alive what has become a breathing cadaver? Most people would probably see no point at all, and would share the judge's view that in such a case, that which makes a person human has been irretrievably lost.

The Bland judgment is nothing to do with active

euthanasia and adds nothing to the clear message of the Cox case that the deliberate taking of life will amount to homicide. There is nothing novel in the withholding of medical treatment where it does no good — this goes on all the time in the discontinuance of the treatment of badly handicapped infants and in the withholding of treatment from very aged patients with few prospects of a reasonable quality of life.

What this judgment does achieve, however, is to put beyond doubt the category that artificial feeding comes into, and thus it will enable doctors to allow many patients who have already suffered in "cognitive death" to die a swifter and more dignified "final death".

It will be important, though, that relatives are fully involved in decisions of this nature, and that if they believe such a patient still to be "present", this intuition should be taken into account.

Yet it is not clear what would happen if relatives wanted artificial feeding and highly expensive nursing treatment to be continued in the face of a hopeless medical prognosis. Relatives cannot dictate medical treatment so their wishes should ultimately be overridden by what is seen as being in the patient's best interests.

Proponents of euthanasia will find comfort in the Bland decision in that they will no doubt see it as an endorsement of their view that there should be clear limits to medical efforts where life has lost all

real meaning. They might, though, be tempted to point to the evidence given in this case that bodily death, when artificial feeding is withdrawn, will come only after ten days or more of, admittedly, agonised starvation. They might ask why it is necessary to go through that, and suggest that the administration of a lethal injection would be not only morally more courageous but less of an insult to the dignity of the patient.

The decision in the Cox case has underlined the legal unacceptability of that, and until Parliament changes the criminal law — which is highly unlikely — all the courts can do is to ease the passing, in the way in which they propose to do in the tragic case of Mr Bland.

● The author is Reader in Law, University of Edinburgh.

A mix of members
would help justice

IMAGINE a society in which people from totally different disciplines come together to learn about each others' problems. The only thing these magistrates, lawyers, doctors, probation officers, social and voluntary workers have in common is that they are all engaged in a form of decision-making concerning children and families.

The British Juvenile and Family Courts Society does not distinguish among these professionals and has no axe to grind other than its concern with justice and the family.

This multi-disciplinary society covers the three jurisdictions of the UK: England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Through its conferences, research and newsletters, the society draws together the different aspects of the justice system as it operates in three very different jurisdictions. "We are really a federation in terms of our legal systems," says Dilly Gask, co-founder of the society, which was formed after the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates' conference in 1974. Magistrates still comprise most of the membership.

From its first international meeting, the society has retained the interest of those at the top of the justice system, as well as those of us who work at the "coal face". Sheriff Brian Kearney, from Scotland, is the only judge member, but Sir Stephen Brown, the president of the Family Division, is a trustee.

Ordinary members derive benefit from belonging to the society. Some, such as Dr A.H. Manchester, senior law lecturer at Birmingham University, finds the chance to keep in touch with the grass roots invaluable. K.M. England, a development officer with Cleveland social services, is impressed by the society's academic standards. As she put it: "It gives social workers a chance to present themselves as the professional people."

Like most of the people I talked to, I value the society for its breadth of vision and the depth it brings to discussion about the family and its problems. The society's seminar in London on Friday, *The Challenge of Urgency Child Protection — A UK Perspective*, should be no exception. Lord Justice Balcombe will speak on changes between the old law and the new Children Act. He will probably look at the wider issues in relation to family proceedings.



BRIEF

PAULA
DAVIES

courts. He has suggested that complex family cases concerning children should be heard not by a judge alone, but by a legally qualified person sitting as chairman and flanked by two lay people.

Having sat as a part-time chairman of an employment appeals tribunal between 1983 and 1985, he says: "It is difficult to make decisions on child care or family cases about children solely on one's own. In most cases concerning children, the legal principle is clear: the welfare of the child is the first and paramount consideration."

"Cases that could easily go either way are better heard by a tribunal. When those cases are heard by a judge sitting alone, the losing party might well take the view that another judge would have come to a different conclusion. A court comprising three members, and in particular one whose members are not all of the same sex, is more likely to instil confidence in the parties that their decision is not based on established attitudes..." As magistrates specially trained in family proceedings, we have been enjoined to send difficult cases upwards."

Now Sir John seems to be saying that the higher courts would benefit from lay members who need not even be magistrates. The difficulty of finding volunteers, to sit on lengthy cases or to be recruited from the ranks of the retired, "People in their sixties, if they are fortunate to have grandchildren with whom they are in regular contact, are probably as well qualified as any to serve as members of courts dealing with child cases," he says.

He also believes magistrates themselves need a trained lawyer on the Bench. "The clerk is the lawyer and is not a member of the court, merely a legal adviser. Where the court is an all-day one, the reasons for the decisions are all too often inadequately expressed. Delivering the judgment, whether *ex tempore* or in writing, is a function for which legal training is invaluable. The new duties of writing down facts and giving reasons in family cases are now easily and effectively done by those with at least seven years' legal experience."

We are punch-drunk with new rules and regulations: a few more as sensible as these would not come amiss.

● The author is chairman of an inner-London family proceedings court.

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Wigs win
the vote

CRIMINAL barristers have delivered their verdict on wigs: they want to keep them. A Criminal Bar Association survey found 72 per cent of the 580 members who replied favoured keeping the existing regalia for Crown Court cases. Half the rest wanted to discard only their wigs but to keep their gowns. About one in eight wanted ordinary clothes to be worn. Barristers of both sexes agreed that robes ensured they were treated with more respect, and clients responded "more constructively", they also said.

"The uniform provides a level playing field for the more junior Bar," was another view. Others warned of the dangers of the "lounge-suit approach" and of "saratorial competitiveness or Armani advocacy". Would a jury, they pondered, be wooed with "hired tiers"?

Legal cover

PROVIDING upmarket security for solicitors' firms has paid off for Simon Cooney, a solicitor. His company, First Security, has been shortlisted for the 1992 Business Enterprise Award.

The company, set up five years ago, is the largest privately owned guarding company in the UK. Law firm clients include Theodore Goddard, McKenna & Co and Titmuss Sainer & Webb.

Mr Cooney says: "Our niche is providing quality security staff to the prestige

office market. The old image of a security officer is a brusque. We provide security officers who can also act as receptionists."

Backlog

THE Commercial Court is in danger of grinding to a halt. "When we want to make ourselves weep," says David Bird, clerk to the Commercial Court, "we read the recent House of Lords debate on the crisis in the Commercial Court." Sadly, the position has worsened since Stephen Carter, of Charles Russell, said the courts were not as clogged up as they once were.

Now, with only one judge available to hear a list established by Mr Bird for a cast of six, the court cannot keep pace with its backlog.

"They do not seem to think there is a problem," Mr Bird says. In a nutshell, when the Lord Chancellor's department recently elevated Mr Justice Evans and Mr Justice Hirst to the Court of Appeal, it neglected to replace them.

As a result, with four judges being tied up in long cases and one retired, the stalwart Mr Justice Saville is the only judge available to hear the list.

A clerk in a major commercial set of chambers says: "I cannot remember when one of our commercial cases came on when listed. We have only managed to get some cases on by floating them in the list." He adds: "In these hard times, it would be nice to get

some cases on so that we can earn some money."

The Lord Chancellor's department refuses to comment on the reasons for the delays, but says that it will soon announce at least two new appointments.

Law of loans

AMID the concern over paucity of student funding, Nottingham Law School is to introduce the country's first student loan scheme specially devised for trainee lawyers.

The school, part of Nottingham Trent University, has joined forces with the Royal Bank of Scotland to offer a loan package to students enrolling in the new legal practice course from September.



The scheme will provide loans of up to £10,000, which students can repay over five to seven years after qualification.

Nigel Savage, professor and head of the law school, said the package was "to meet the specific needs of people entering the legal profession". It should prove a lifeline, he added, for students with financial problems as they work towards their finals.

In 1991, the school was the first institution in the country to gain Law Society approval to run the new course for 500 students.

Charity case

NOW MAY be the time to sack your young lawyers — temporarily. The College of Law is offering unemployed lawyers the opportunity to attend its retraining course at a fraction of the usual cost.

So if you have commercial assistants whom you want to move to your litigation department, they can register for the retraining course for £30, so long as they are unemployed at the date of registration. The full price for the course is £200.

The college, however, would take a dim view of this approach. While it would prefer to allow unemployed lawyers to attend free of charge, as a non-profit-making charity without any subsidy or funding, "we have to meet our expenses," Jenny Treleven, the director of continuing education, says.

Law firms that pay the full £200 to send staff on the course will, in effect, subsidise the unemployed.

SCRIVENOR

Two new ventures reveal the increasing involvement of lawyers in television production, both campaigning and educational

A new television production company aimed at exposing miscarriages of justice has stolen a march on its rivals by winning the blessing and support of a team of leading campaigners for justice and law reform. Just Television, headed by David Jessel, former presenter of the BBC's *Rough Justice* series, has formed an advisory group including Ludovic Kennedy, the author, Michael Mansfield QC, Anthony Scrivener QC, the former Bar chairman, Judge Stephen Tumm, the chief inspector of prisons and Sir David Steel MP.

Just Television has a contract with Channel 4 to produce up to six programmes investigating miscarriages of justice in the next two years. Mr Jessel says the group will "advise, guide, suggest and inspire" the makers of the series which is provisionally entitled *Trial and Error*.

The fact that a television company working in this area has attracted such leading legal and political figures is a sign of a softening of attitudes within the legal establishment to such programmes, which have previously been viewed with suspicion and hostility.

The degree of mistrust was revealed in the early 1980s when complaints from Lord Lane, then the Lord Chief Justice, about a programme on Anthony Mycock, a man convicted of aggravated burglary, resulted in the original producer of *Rough Justice* and a journalist working on the series both being suspended by the BBC. Lord Lane dismissed such programmes as "mere entertainment". Mycock's conviction was quashed a few years later.

Now senior members of the judiciary seem to have changed their attitudes. The makers of *Rough Justice* were thanked by Lord Taylor, the present Lord Chief Justice, for their work on the case of the Darvel brothers, who had their murder convictions quashed in the Court of Appeal in July after a programme investigating the case.

Mr Kennedy, a long-time campaigner for wrongly convicted prisoners, will chair the advisory group.

He says: "There is a movement among younger members of the legal profession to recognise that we in the media

Screening a posse of just men



Kim Pyne

are not against them but with them."

Michael Mansfield, QC, however, believes lawyers still have a long way to go. "Though there has been a sign of a shift from some parts of the Bar," he says, "most barristers still view these programmes with suspicion."

The presence of Judge Tumm on the advisory group — the first judge to be involved in such a venture — may cause some raised eyebrows among the judiciary. He has spoken out against poor conditions in the country's jails, last week heavily criticising conditions at Lewes prison, East Sussex.

Though he has just become formally involved with Mr Jessel and his team, Judge Tumm has been helping them to locate potential subjects within Britain's large prison population for some time.

He is pleased and excited to

be involved with the programme, although he will be unable to comment on individual cases because of his position. "They have done valuable work," he says. "This is very competent television. Anything I can do to prevent minor errors creeping in is my duty and my pleasure."

A major trigger for the creation of the advisory group was the BBC's decision to continue to produce *Rough Justice* after the defection of Jessel and editor Steve Haywood to the independent sector. *Trial and Error* and *Rough Justice* are now in close competition.

Some lawyers have expressed fears that the competitive atmosphere between the two teams will result in one or the other lowering their research standards in order to be first on the screen. Mr Jessel counters that two teams may prove to be better than one.

"Competition may have its

dangers, but we are determined to avoid them. It is ultimately a good thing for our client group, the people in jail, because it means we have effectively twice the resources for these cases."

Charles Hunter, the producer of *Rough Justice*, is worried that the situation may develop into a "beauty contest", with both teams courting the same prisoner and making him or her unrealistic promises in order to get the right to feature his case. However, he says, both teams are professional enough to prevent this happening.

Mr Jessel's decision to leave the BBC caused some acrimony there. He says he left after a senior BBC staff member told him the corporation was not fully committed to the series and that the future of *Rough Justice* was in doubt, something which Steve Hewlett, the programme's BBC executive producer, denies.

"This is not so," he says. "There was some discussion at the time of the budget for the programme, but its future was never in doubt. I resent the assertion that we have lost our nerve."

Both teams are at present doing extensive research into a number of possible miscarriages of justice. Neither is at the filming stage. Mr Jessel says research is given a high priority at Just TV. Of every 50 cases researched, only three are likely to make it to the screen.

About 15 per cent of the cases come from letters from lawyers. Mr Jessel says this percentage could rise. "Every criminal practitioner has handled a case which they are not happy with," Mr Jessel says. "We want them to come forward."

He says his team should not be seen as a television programme group but as simply another legal resource, with access to forensic experts and others that legal aid firms often do not have.

Both teams are aware of the dangers that a drop in standards could put this important area of journalism back years in the eyes of the public and the legal profession.

SEAN WEBSTER

● The author writes for Solicitors Journal.

Lessons for early birds

Tomorrow morning at 3.15, the College of Law and the Law Society, in conjunction with the BBC, will launch Legal Network Television (LNTV), the first educational broadcast service in the UK aimed specifically at lawyers.

The pre-dawn attack by the BBC is just the opening offensive in an extended publicity barrage which is likely to last through the new year. Over the next three months the network hopes to sign up enough subscribers to its twice-weekly broadcast service to give it a firm base for when the programmes start in earnest in February.

LNTV is just one of a series of education services being broadcast by the BBC in the early hours of the morning. Series for doctors, business people and accountants have already started. LNTV will be available only to subscribers who have installed a BBC selector on their video equipment, which decodes the scrambled signal and automatically triggers the video-recorder.

A lot of money hangs on the new service. Producing television programmes, even in these days of honed down costs, is an expensive business. The College of Law, the Law Society and the BBC who together own LNTV are confident that the attractiveness of the service will make it a commercially viable venture.

"We expect that it will be paying for itself within a year," said Peter Brindley, the College of Law lecturer who is LNTV's chief executive.

The drive behind the service is the idea that lawyers want more education training and that with compulsory continuing professional education (CPE) for all just little over five years away, the time is now ripe to start a television service.

The two half-hour programmes will be backed by print material and should form the basis of training sessions for which CPE points can be claimed. Rather than attending expensive courses, lawyers will be able to update themselves via LNTV in the comfort of their offices.



Legal precedent: LNTV is the UK's first network for lawyers

That at least is the theory. The problem may lie in the price. The main target audience is the high street lawyer and though an attractive introductory offer is being made for the first quarter (£400, including a selector), the annual payments thereafter could be a serious issue at partners' meetings.

Fees are based on the numbers of lawyers employed by subscribing firms, but though a large firm with more than 300 lawyers will pay a fee of £6,695 plus VAT, a relatively small one with, say, ten lawyers, will pay £3,450 plus VAT. In other words, the largest City firms

will pay just twice as much as the small high street outfit. LNTV maintains that whatever the price, service will give excellent value. Its strength should lie in its combination of the College of Law's educational expertise and the participation of recognised national authorities (such as David Goy, QC, on VAT and property, and Hugh Laddie, QC, on Anton Piller orders).

Rotating through key areas such as matrimonial, property and commercial law, and litigation, the service aims to have something for most types of specialist once or twice a quarter.

Viewers are normally expected to be in practice, but

there will be programmes of wider interest for example, for social workers and personnel staff.

The service could also appeal to lawyers having time away from their careers or who want to update themselves on a specialisation with a view to a career change (exactly how individual subscribers will pay has yet to be calculated).

Unlike its cousin, Accountancy TV, which presents business news and education in a series of segments, LNTV will focus in depth on one subject in each programme. The style promises to be glossy, with lively graphics from Diverse, an outside production company, but there will be no high-profile, on-screen presenter (again unlike Accountancy TV), preferring instead to rest on straight opinions and insights from leading legal authorities.

So far, nobody is being paid to appear on LNTV, but barristers are still apparently queuing up to offer their services for nothing. Will LNTV create stars to rival Rumpole? Tune in tomorrow.

EDWARD FENNELL

A LAW FOR PRIVACY?

SHOULD there be a law to protect privacy? Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, will join Simon Jenkins, the former editor of *The Times*, and Richard Shepherd MP to debate the issue at the London Press Centre, New Street Square, London EC4 on December 2 at 6.30pm (071-704 9941). Lord Woolf will be in the chair. To obtain tickets to the forum, *Should there be a law to protect privacy?*, being held in association with Rubinstein Callingham, Polden & Gale, fill in the coupon at right.

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Jonathan Macrae and Jonathan Brenner are both solicitors with extensive experience of recruitment consultancy at all levels. To find out more about these specific vacancies or other positions in your own specialisation, please contact either of us on 071-377 0510 (081-332 0733 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

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EUROMONEY

1992

مكزات الأمل

Contrary world of the admirable grayling is catching

Brian Clarke joins up with the devotees of an unglamorous and unlikely small object of desire at their annual conference

DID you know that the grayling in Lake Bala, in Wales, migrate into the River Dee in summer? Neither did I. Did you know that because of the quite exceptional hatchings of small stone-flies in the River Allier, in France, grayling can be caught there on the dry fly right through December? Nor I. Did you know that the Sava Bohinka strain of grayling in Eastern Europe has a red tail? That's two of us.

But we do now, which means that the annual conference of the Grayling Society at Llangollen worked its usual modest, sober, focusing on this highly idiosyncratic fish the kind of attention that others would give their pharyngeal teeth for.

It is quite astonishing what the Grayling Society, in its 15 years, has been able to do for the grayling, the more so given the unhelpful nature of the creature itself.

For a start, the grayling is thoroughly contrary. It does not care for the round eyes that other fish have, so it has

developed a pear-shaped one instead. It carries an adipose fin, the insignia of the lordly game fish, but it insists on looking like a coarse fish and on breeding when the coarse fish breed.

For all its beaten-silver sides and its huge, spotted dorsal fin, the grayling also comes nowhere in the glamour stakes. It is a slender and rather dainty fish, true, but it does not share the heroic life cycle of the salmon or fight with the ferocity of the highly-mottled trout.

It is also rather small. A 1lb grayling is a nice one, a 2lb grayling a corker, and a fish of 3lb would have grown men — well, some grown men, mostly members of the Grayling Society — awake and raring in the night.

Yet, in spite of all this and more, the society has man-

aged to put this confused and confusing fish on the angling map and keep it there, in more senses than one.

The society has, for example, been instrumental in reducing at least some of the slaughter of grayling on the chalk streams, an unnecessary work undertaken in the belief that the fish were competing with the trout and were directly responsible for the trout's decline. Studies carried out by society members, or publicised by it, suggest that where trout populations decline it is primarily because the fish's environment has been eroded, and that the only result of electrofishing grayling and removing them from a river is to reduce the number of viable fish and to encourage lots of smaller fish instead.

Over the years, at its confer-



The grayling dainty and unheroic but in demand

ences and meetings, the society has shed much other light on the grayling's natural history, distribution, breeding behaviour and feeding habits. It publishes a small journal to promote what it has learnt. It has developed branches throughout Great Britain and has representatives in Belgium, Holland, Sweden,

Canada and the United States. It keeps lots of statistics.

I do not have many claims to grayling fame, but one of them is — or, at least, was — that on September 23, 1983, I caught the 23rd largest grayling then known to have been caught on a fly. I have not asked the society to do-

ble-check this in case my catch has since been shuffled down the list or in case my memory is playing tricks and the fish was really the 63rd largest. But the details are not important. What is important is that the society should be there with relevant data to hand and be able and willing to send me a report on the fish's age and growth rate year by year, based on microscopic readings of the scales I supplied.

Of course, not everyone is as involved day-to-day with the grayling, as are members of the Grayling Society. In fact, as a guess, practically nobody is. The annual conference this month was told that members had sought and fished for grayling in 84 different rivers in the United Kingdom, as well as many abroad. Some members fished between 30 and 40 days a year.

For most anglers, the grayling is a coincidental fish. It is the fish that pops up to take your fly when you know you have cast to a trout — and then pops up again to take your

other fly which you know for certain you had cast to a trout.

The grayling's willingness to rise to an artificial fly — and to go on rising after more sensible fish have learnt better — is its saving grace and what brings it so much gentle affection. It is a great beginning to the summer, down by chumy trout men in the autumn, even trout men in the winter because the grayling is still feeding at the surface though the season for its lordly cousin has closed. Even now the fish is giving men who like to wait a fly rod an excuse to be out though the sun is low and the countryside is washed in a gold leaf light.

There is another characteristic that marks out the grayling. It is that when the fly hatches have finally waned and the fish is forced to remain hard on the bottom, the grayling will still go on feeding and offering sport to those who fish with a float.

Most fishing slows down in winter because the trout is out of season and the metabo-

lisms of the coarse fish slow with the cold. The grayling, in the meantime, remembers that it is an Arctic fish, one left behind when the ice receded 10,000 years ago, and it swims and feeds blithely on.

None of this would have been news to the folk in Llangollen, where the air was thick with accents and chins were thick with beards; indeed, to members of the Grayling Society, it would all have been whiskers and old tweed hat. But still they, and we, learnt much about specific strains of grayling that we did not know before: especially about those of the Dee in Wales and of the Sava Bohinka in troubled Slovenia, each of which was discussed at length.

So I ask again: what other minor fish has such a society named after it and is studied in such exotic detail? Where is the Supple League? How old was the 23rd largest dace? How many gold fillings does the average gudgeon have? We seek in vain, seek in vain.

TENNIS

Becker served well by ability to beat opponents to punch

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent, in Frankfurt

OUTSIDE the Festhalle here, a mechanical statue depicts a workman casting iron. Rhythmically, a thousand times a day, he brings a hammer crashing down on to the metal. It was built three years ago to represent the working spirit of Frankfurt, but it could equally be the symbol of the ATP championship, which was won in crushing style on Sunday by Boris Becker.

Rhythmically, hour after hour, the thud of racket on ball has echoed round the gilded ceiling of the Festhalle. Often the thud has been unanswered. Another ace, Becker served 64 in five matches, averaging just over five in each of his 12 sets. Goran Ivanisevic, whom Becker defeated in a tight semi-final, added 48 to bring his score for the year to 957. In the absence of Andre Agassi's quickfire returns, both won 98 per cent of their service games.

If you count the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup in Munich next month, which the ATP — not to mention the two finalists here, Becker and Jim Courier — does not, the Croat

could top 1,000, which is a delight for the increasing band of statisticians and a credit to Ivanisevic, the Wimbledon runner-up, but a dubious reflection on the way tennis is progressing.

Earlier this year, the ATP compiled statistics which showed that, on grass, the ball was in play for under four minutes an hour. I doubt very much if there was any more tennis than that in Becker's straight-sets victory over the world No. 1 in the final nor in either of the semi-finals.

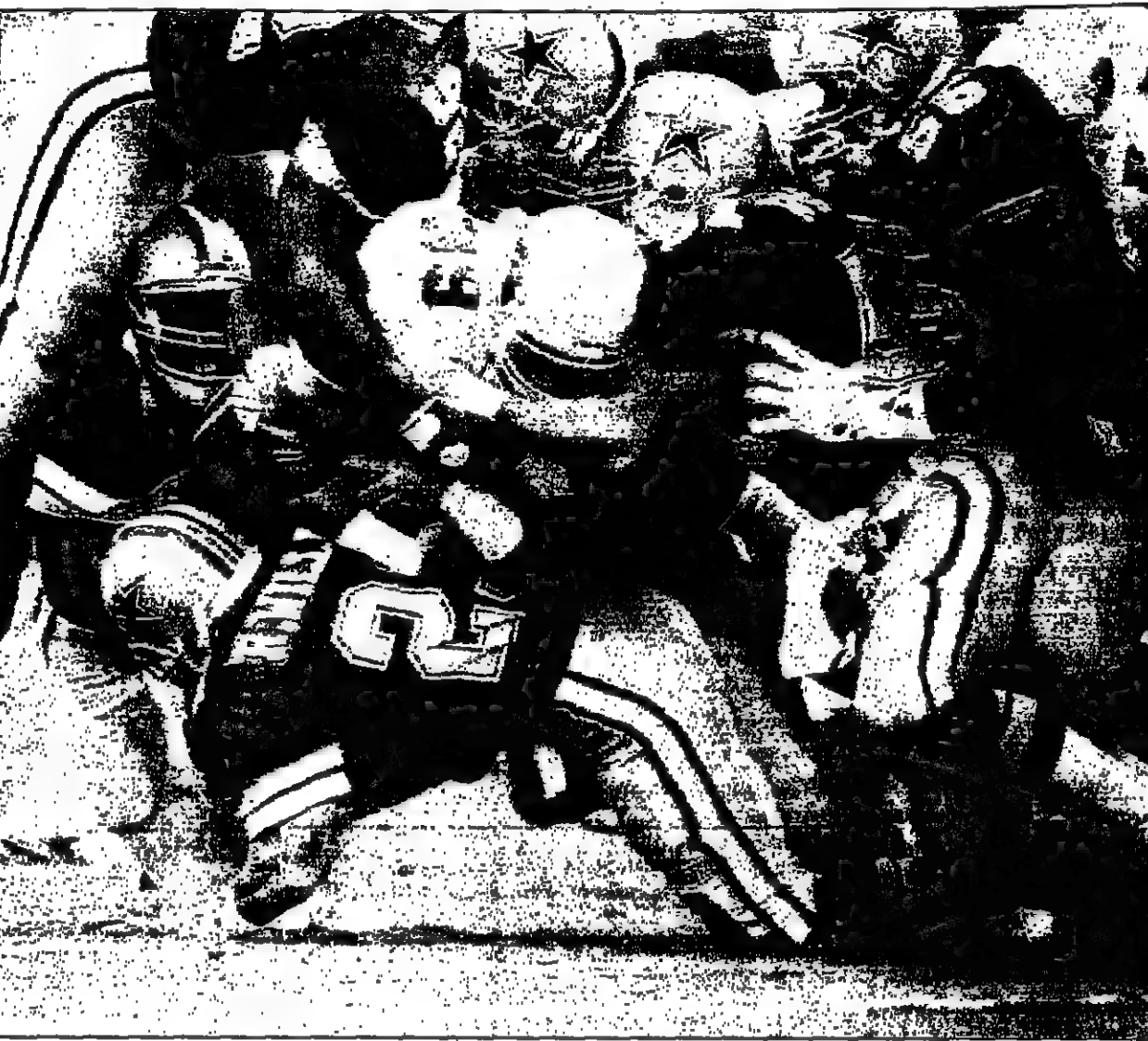
Throughout the week, the tennis was explosive, powerful, technically brilliant and crashingly one-paced. On a fast indoor surface with big men wielding big rackets, there is no time to craft a point, no time either to defend or counter-attack. Whoever gets the first punch home wins the point. Mostly, that is the server. Nearly a third of the 36 sets were decided on a tie-break. It is grass-court tennis without the greenery, without the sun, without the colour and, often, without the interest.

The ATP will doubtless count their tour finale a huge success and so will the German public, who packed the hall each day, first to watch Becker win, then to watch the tennis. The tour badly needs Becker back to his best. He is one of the few larger-than-life figures in the game and he keeps the deutchmarks flowing, which means that, even though the administration of the ATP is more than ever dominated by Americans, Europe is still the financial base. It will remain that way until Becker decides to retire, which he came close to doing during the summer, another German player rises to fill his considerable shoes or a new market opens up. The Middle East, perhaps. Or Britain.

Next year, the German fixture-list will be augmented by the new grass-court tournament in Halle, which has reportedly signed the Wimbledon champion, Andre Agassi, and by a \$1 million mixed masters exhibition event in Saarbrücken in September, which is backed by RTL, the German satellite television station, and to which Steffi Graf has committed herself for three years. But the ATP, as masters of the tour, should not be deceived into thinking that all is well with the game just because the balance sheet adds up. There is rather more to responsibility than dollars or marks.

There was still much to admire in Frankfurt. The unlimited courage of Michael Chang as he vainly tried to mask his lack of power. He did not win a match, but Ken Rosewall, who lent his name to one of the qualifying groups, would have been proud of him. And there was Becker, whose control of all the many pressures around him in his homeland was more complete than at any time since the Davis Cup final of 1989.

To win only his second title inside Germany after such a wrecked summer was a tribute to his powers of recovery and to his new coach, Günther Bresnik. The real test of his new appetite, though, will come next year in the grand-slam tournaments. Like the mechanical statue, they honour real hard labour.



Trail's end: Dallas Cowboys' defenders converge to overwhelm the Phoenix running back, Johnny Johnson (39)

Falcons rushed to heavy defeat

By Robert Kiley

THE Buffalo Bills, Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers won on Sunday to lead the National Football League with records of nine victories and two defeats and the surprising Minnesota Vikings and Pittsburgh Steelers prevailed for the eighth time to lead their divisions.

Buffalo scored touchdowns on each of their first five series to lead the Atlanta Falcons 41-14. The Bills took such advantage of a blitzing defence that Kenneth Davis and Thurman Thomas gained over 100 yards rushing before half-time. Davis ended with 181 yards and two touchdowns, including a 64-yarder. The Falcons yielded 315 yards rushing, a club record.

Troy Aikman completed two touchdowns passes to lead the Cowboys to a 16-10 victory over the Phoenix Cardinals, maintaining a two-game lead in the National Football Conference East. The Cowboys ran off the last four minutes thanks to a questionable interference penalty.

The Philadelphia Eagles beat the New York Giants 47-

34. Seth Joyner returned an interception 43 yards for a score. Ken Rose recovered a blocked punt for a touchdown and Vai Sikahema scored on an 87-yard punt return as Philadelphia ran up 34 unanswered points.

The 49ers beat the Los Angeles Rams 27-10 as Ricky Waters scored on two three-

yard runs and Jerry Rice caught a 42-yard pass for the 99th touchdown of his career. Rice needs one scoring catch to equal the league record set by Steve Largent, formerly of Seattle. Rice also set a team record by catching at least one pass in 106 consecutive games and finished with four catches for 93 yards. The Miami

Dolphins outkicked the Houston Oilers 19-16. Al Del Greco, of Houston, missed a 41-yard attempt with 1min 49sec left and Pete Stoyanovich, of Miami, kicked a 52-yarder with two seconds remaining for the win.

Barry Foster, of Pittsburgh, scored twice and rushed for 168 yards in a 30-14 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

John Elway was sidelined with a shoulder injury sustained last week and the Denver Broncos paid dearly, losing 24-0 to the Los Angeles Raiders. Tommy Maddox, a rookie quarterback, was intercepted twice by Terry McDaniel. Eric Dickerson, in his best game with the Raiders, gained 107 yards and Jay Schroeder completed three touchdowns.

Audrey McMillian returned his third interception of the game for a fourth-quarter score that gave the Minnesota Vikings a 17-13 victory over the Cleveland Browns. Brett Favre threw for one touchdown and ran for another to lift the Green Bay Packers to a 17-3 win over the Chicago Bears, who lost their fourth game in a row.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE			
East division			
Dallas Cowboys	9	2	283 182
Pittsburgh Steelers	8	2	255 188
Washington Redskins	8	4	175 167
New York Giants	8	8	246 248
Phoenix Cardinals	8	8	184 241
Central division			
Minnesota Vikings	8	3	276 174
Green Bay Packers	8	3	259 218
Chicago Bears	7	7	227 281
Jacksonville Jaguars	4	7	198 259
Detroit Lions	3	8	195 229
West division			
San Francisco 49ers	8	3	319 182
New Orleans Saints	8	3	191 128
Atlanta Falcons	4	7	200 206
Los Angeles Rams	4	7	200 283
San Diego Chargers	4	7	187 202
Washington at New Orleans			

PHOTOGRAPHY: Week 15: Thursday (The following day): Houston at Detroit; NY Giants at Dallas; Sunday: Buffalo at Indianapolis; Chicago at Cleveland; Kansas City at NY Jets; Monday at New Orleans; Minnesota at LA Rams; New England at Atlanta; Philadelphia at San Francisco; Phoenix at Washington; Pittsburgh at Cincinnati; Tampa Bay at Green Bay (Monday); LA Raiders at San Diego. Monday: Denver at Seattle.

ATHLETICS

More money for British League

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

FURTHER evidence that British athletics is beating the recession was presented yesterday when Guardian Royal Exchange announced a three-year extension to its British League sponsorship. From 1994 to 1996, GRE will add £20,000 to its present £130,000-a-year backing.

The British League has every right to feel pleased with itself because, unlike most other leading track and field operations, it negotiates its own sponsorship.

Alan Pascoe Associates, the British Athletic Federation's marketing agency, handles all the other main sponsorships and has secured a succession

of deals recently which has consolidated Britain as the most sponsored nation in European athletics.

Since APA became the marketing agency for the sport in Britain in 1985, its annual income on behalf of athletics has risen from £300,000 to more than £4 million. But GRE's sponsorship of the British League pre-dates APA's involvement in the sport for it was begun in 1978.

Matthew Wheeler, APA's director in charge of athletics, said that the two main reasons why the sport had found favour with sponsors while others had suffered in the recession were: "The success of

our athletes and the strength of the television contract with ITV."

Linford Christie used the British League last summer as an early-season work-out before going on to win the Olympic 100 metres.

Jack Walters, the league's outgoing chairman, said yesterday: "Both GRE and the British League have given immeasurable support to club athletics at all levels over the years. In many ways it has been the conscience of the sport in this country. We were at the forefront in advocating a single governing body in 1983 and we have led the way in drug-testing in the UK."

EQUESTRIANISM

Beerbaum will lead the parade at Olympia

By Jenny MacArthur

LUDGER Beerbaum, of Germany, the Olympic individual gold medal-winner, heads the formidable list of entries for the 21st Olympia Show Jumping Championships, which take place from December 16 to 20.

The British entries are led by the Olympic riders, John and Michael Whitaker, David Broome — who has competed at every show — and Nick Skelton. The show, started by the late Raymond Brooks-Ward in 1972, has been voted the world's top indoor show by the international riders. That means many entries have to be

turned away. Because the show holds a Volvo World Cup qualifier it is obliged to accept 24 foreign riders.

Philip Drew, the chairman of the show committee, said yesterday: "This means we have to limit British riders to 16, otherwise the classes become too long." The 16 are taken from the top 11 of the national rankings, plus the top five from the qualifying show held at South View in Cheshire last month. This figure precludes Veronique Whitaker, the winner of the World Cup qualifier at Olympia last year.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

HARRY TATE

(a) Used attributively or in the possessive to designate something incompetent or disorderly, from the stage name of R. M. Hutchinson (1872-1942). British music hall comedian: "Native courts have been established in Uganda. Their methods have been described as Harry Tate procedure, but they are generally successful at arriving at the facts."

MOSSBACK

(b) Someone attached to old-fashioned ideas or ways, an extreme conservative, a fogey, from a large old fish so sluggish that it has a growth of algae on its back: "The mossbacks of the National Gallery have pulled off quite a coup in securing the Martini Horse for a one-day exhibition."

SLAMMER

(c) Prison, usually with "the", sometimes the slammers, perhaps from the slamming shut of cell doors: "This one's not for the slammer, he'll go to Broadmoor for sure."

DOUGLAS

(b) An axe, especially in the phrase "to swing Douglas", formerly a proprietary name in the US for axes, hatchets, etc. produced by the Douglas Axe Manufacturing Co., East Douglas, Mass.: "Sometimes on a Sunday morning exhibitions of axesmanship were given; right and wrong way to swing Douglas."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

The white rook leapt into the fray with 1 Rch1? Kch7 2 Qh5+ Kg8 3 Qh8 mate.

THE TIMES TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 1992

The Fell moment

1.50

HUNTING

RUGBY LEAGUE

Ford gets chance as injuries take toll

By CHRISTOPHER LIVING

A HEAVY injury toll has given the England rugby league side an experimental feel, with three senior international newcomers drafted into the starting line-up to face Wales at Swansea on Friday.

The withdrawal of the experienced Wigan props, Andy Platt and Kelvin Skeccett, along with the second-row forward, Denis Betts, should partly redress the imbalance up front, where the Welsh were felt to be weakest.

After a training session at Headingley, Malcolm Reilly, the England coach, yesterday brought the Castleford and Great Britain prop, Lee Crooks, into the side to assume the goalkeeping role from Deryck Fox, a fourth injury victim of a disconcerting week-end for Reilly.

In place of Fox, Mike Ford, the Castleford scrum half, will partner Garry Schofield at half back, a not-altogether-unhappy proposition, particularly given the speed of Martin Offiah and Alan Hume on wide and the strength of Gary Connolly and Paul Newlove in the centres.

With Alan Tait struggling to overcome the effects of a gashed leg, Stuart Spruce, of Widnes, takes over at full back. He, Ford and the Leeds forward, Steve Molloy, all Great Britain under-21 internationals, will make their senior debuts, with three other new players, Dean Busby, Jason Critchley and Chris Joynt, all likely to be on the substitutes' bench.

With just seven of those who represented Great Britain in last month's World Cup final included, Reilly sees the side as forward-thinking. "We've picked up injuries, but we are looking to the future, although all these players have international experience at some level," he said.

Wales, too, have their injury worries. The wing, Phil Ford, the only survivor from the last match against England eight years ago, described his chances of playing as 50-50. Paul Moriarty, the second-row forward, is also doubtful with knee and shoulder problems.

ENGLAND: S Spruce (Widnes); A Hume (8 Havelock); G Connolly (2 Havelock); P Newlove (Castleford); Lee Crooks, M Offiah (Wigan); G Schofield (Leeds, prop), M Ford (Leeds); J Critchley (Leeds), L Jackson (P), S Molloy (Leeds), R Evans (Leeds), D Busby (Leeds), D Joynt (Leeds). Four substitutes from: D Busby (P), J Critchley (Leeds), C Joynt (P), S Molloy, D Power (Sheffield Eagles), A Tait (Leeds).

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RACING

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Barnet are fined £50,000 by League tribunal

This is the latest financial setback this season for the third division club, which is believed to be losing £2,000 aweek and whose players threatened to go on strike

The commission added that it did accept that there were a

Flashman is no stranger to controversy. Recently, his comments on BBC Radio 5 – “The supporters don’t matter as far as I’m concerned; they just pay their entrance fee,” he said – were seen by some as outrageous, by others merely typical of a man who had alienated himself from the public and who would never be able to shed the image popularised by the tabloid press.

Yet when, in 1985, Flashman arrived in north London, he was hailed as a saviour. Creditors, including the men from the VAT and Inland Revenue, were paid off as he brought a controlling interest in the club, and a few weeks later, when suddenly he had the finance to aim for the top.

Three times in four seasons Barnet finished second in the GM Vauxhall Conference before they achieved their goal of a place in the Football League.

CHRIS Eubank will be having his tenth world title bout when he defends his World Boxing Organising super-middleweight title against **Juan Carlos Giménez**, of Paraguay, in Manchester on Saturday. Not bad going for a man who has always said that boxing is a barbarous sport.

Having made close on £2 million from the sport, he could go on boxing for another two years. Not particularly because of change of heart, rather that the unbeaten champion has come across the one person he cannot beat — the tax man.

"He is a gangster," Eubank said yesterday in Manchester. "Ideally, I'd like to get out of the game right now, but my hand is being forced by the tax man. He does not allow me to stop fighting. It's almost as if

Eubank's promoter, Barry Hearn, said Eubank will have to go on boxing longer than other boxers because of his extensive taste and lifestyle.

Chris will have to go on fighting a lot more than the average because he does not have average taste," Hearn said. "I think Chris Eubank is going into the record books and will be here in two years."

To help him fight the tauntman, Eubank has had to change his image. A month ago, he decided to consult a public relations company to help him promote himself

CSS, a sports and public relations company, advised Eubank to soften his image if they were sell him to the public. Which was why

Eubank yesterday forsook his expensive suit, bow tie and dark glasses for a tracksuit at a press conference to publicise his bout with Giménez.

"I was aloof because I didn't want people to be familiar with me," Eubank said. "I'm changing things for the better and taking a softer approach

because I have got the respect now. People must not see me as a clown or a puppet. I want to be seen in a softer light without appearing a fool. I want to be more accessible."

Hearn said: "He came to

"Chris's finances, lifestyle and career will be planned on American lines. We are looking at securing his future." Even when it came to saving

why he was so successful, unbeaten in 33 bouts, Eubank was suitably modest. "Colin McMillan is the best boxer, Nigel Benn is the hardest puncher, Paul Hodgkinson the best fighter; I'm the most successful because I can box a little, punch a little, strut a little and talk a little. I can do a little

But the softer line will not be in evidence in the ring when he faces Giménez. The Paraguayan has never been stopped in 45 contests and was specially picked by Eubank because "he comes to fight", having survived tougher opponents like Roberto Duran, Juan Roldán, and Jorge Amparo.

"The fighting character can't be soft," Eubank said. "I will not be compromising in the ring."

KATRIN Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, hopes once again to use a loophole in the rules of the German Athletics Federation (DLV) when she appeals in January against her four-year suspension.

Peter Woessner, the German sprinter's lawyer, said yesterday that the DLV has still failed to make its statutes legally watertight by including out-of-competition drugs-testing procedures. It was this inadequacy that allowed Krabbe, and her fellow-Germans, Grit Breuer and Silke Möller, to have their original four-year suspensions lifted in June for allegedly manipulating urine samples.

Krabbe, Breuer and Manuela Derr, who last Friday had their second suspensions for four years confirmed by the DLT after admitting taking the drug clenbuterol, will be using this argument again when they appeal against the ban at a hearing early in 1993. The trio gave urine samples containing clenbuterol in out-of-competition testing in July.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation last week confirmed that clenbuterol was a banned substance in out-of-competition testing and carried the same suspension, four years, as anabolic steroids. However, it remains debatable whether clenbuterol

was banned in out-of-competition testing in July and several lawyers believe action against the athletes would be retrospective legislation.

Woessner said: "The ban must be reduced to something less than four years. The DLV has done nothing about changing its statutes. Its board has no legal right to ban athletes for drug offences in this way."

He said the DLV would be able to ban the competitors only on the grounds that they had acted in an "unsporting fashion". Woessner added: "A maximum of two years would be applicable. More than that is unlikely to get through the German courts."

McRae never let up, sliding into the final right-hand corner at over 80mph with the offside front wheel hanging

field.
Now I'm going flat out and

McRae's performance was matched by that of his younger brother, Alistair, who moved into the lead of the group N category for standard specification cars. Alistair McRae, 21, set six fastest stage times in his class at the wheel of his Ford Sierra Cosworth.

Other British drivers fared less well. Malcolm Wilson dropped to fourteenth place on the opening stage when the turbo-charger and then the transmission of his Ford Sierra Cosworth gave trouble. The Cambrian driver continued after rapid work by the Forest mechanics and ended the day in eighth place. Gwyndaf Evans also limped to the finish in his Sierra Cosworth.



LEADING POSITIONS (after 19th stage): 1, C McRae and D Ringer (GB, Subaru), 2h 33min 48sec; 2, C Sahr and L Moya (Spain, Toyota), 2:33:51; 3, D Auriol and B Occelli (Fr, Lancia), 2:34:35; 4, J Kankkonen and A Pironen (Fin, Lancia), 2:34:51; 5, M Ales and I Kivimaki (Fin, Toyota), 2:35:38; 6, A Vatanen and B Berglund (Fin, Subaru), 2:35:41; 7, M Blesini and T Siviero (G. Ford), 2:35:52; 8, M Wilson and B Thomas (GB, Ford), 2:37:55; 9, S Blomqvist and E Melander (Swe, Nissan), 2:39:24; 10, K Eriksson and S Parnander (Swe, Mitsubishi), 2:39:35.

Geotichia. First two northern forest stages are 16 miles southwest of Antisheik, 1216 m. Special stage 22, Combs forest accounts for 67% of the forest. Four miles west of Antisheik, 1232 m. Special stage 23, Whilpoh-Fire Lake District stage, 1650 m. Special stage 24, Kershops. The first of the long stages covering almost 80 miles of forest, 1602 m. Special stage 25, Wutshohops. Forest gives way to open moorland for fast stages, 1700 m. Special stage 26, Broomlynn. Eleven miles NW of Bellingham, 1764 m. Special stage 27, Pundehnsen. Longest stage, three miles west of Bellingham, 1856 m. Special stage 28, Shupherdshoek. Six miles west of Wier

'Wonderfully smooth.' 'A velvety, nutty character.' 'A unique taste and delicate aroma.' These were just some of the comments the judges of the Pot Still of Glasgow Trophy made about it.

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ACROSS	DOWN
1 Kiss and cuddle (6)	2 Animal collection (9)
5 Bread flavour seeds (6)	3 Porridge grass (3)
6 Tangle (4)	4 Manacle (8)
9 Finicky (8)	5 Lament (4)
10 Fly - fungus (6)	6 Lawyer (9)
12 Headland (4)	7 Crew (3)
15 Pleasure (1,3)	11 Run through (6,3)
16 Lurch (4)	13 Guarded (9)
17 Objective (6)	14 Disperses (8)
19 Choke (8)	18 And others (2,2)
21 Franchise (4)	20 Dry fodder grass (3)
23 Good look (6)	21 Orkney bay (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2952
ACROSS: 1 Sequestration 8 Pride 9 Oxonian 10 How
 11 Ratio 12 Earshot 14 Bunsen 16 Cattle
 20 Nacelle 23 Taxed 24 Lye 25 Airdrop 26 Macon
 27 Transmittable
DOWN: 1 Superabundant 2 Quiescent 3 Eyehole
 4 Trowel 5 Amour 6 Irish 7 Non amercement
 13 Set 15 Sue 17 Attempt 18 Taxicab 19 Delphi
 23 Curia 22 Lords

This position is from the game Popovic — Kotic, Novi Sad 1992. White has deliberately allowed his king to be placed in an awkward position on f1, because he hoped that leaving the king's rook on the open h-file would prove more important. His next move proved this judgement to be good. What did he play?



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SLANG
HARRY TATE
 a. Incompetent or disorderly
 b. All in apple-pie order
 c. Modern and trendy
MOSSBACK
 a. A rolling stone
 b. Extremely conservative
Answers on page 36

c. A style of haircut
SLAMMER
 a. A promiscuous woman
 b. A celeb's minder
 c. A prison
DOUGLAS
 a. A homosexual
 b. An axe
 c. To betray or sneak

Krabbe: suspended